

Zongzi are no longer a treat only to be enjoyed during the Dragon Boat Festival.

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"It's the smallest party we've ever held, but still we needed something to light up these boring days."

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"Among the people who take Kong Zhu as a hobby, I am perhaps the most devoted."

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Beijing Announces Initial Containment of SARS

WHO says China SARS numbers credible

With the number of newly reported probable SARS cases remaining in single digits for 15 consecutive days, the city announced preliminary success in the combat against the virus at a press conference last Saturday.

The total number of new probable SARS cases in the first week of May was 666, compared with 65 last week, a drop of more than 90 percent, said municipal head of publicity Cai Fuchao.

The total number of people who had recovered and been discharged from hospitals was 81 in the first week, compared with 547 in the latest week, up

500 percent.

And in recent weeks all SARS patients had been hospitalized, Cai added.

Liang Wannian, deputy director of Beijing Public Health Bureau attributed the decline of SARS cases in the city to two among a range of factors, including measures taken by the city government, which have proven to be effective and timely, he said.

Those measures include the establishment of SARS-only hospitals and fever clinics, protection of medical workers, mobilization of the public and strengthening of surveillance work.

Both Liang and Cai warned against

any easing up in the combat against SARS, to prevent a new round of resurgence.

According to a Reuter's report yesterday, World Health Organization experts Thursday afternoon cautiously endorsed China's efforts to knock out SARS, calling government reports of no fresh cases this week credible, but urging better surveillance to avoid new outbreaks.

"We think that the reported figures are believable for Beijing," said team member Anne Schuchat.

Beijing has only reported three new cases for the first five days of June.

Edited by Xiao Rong

Just a Slight Fever ...

For SARS reporter, misdiagnosis gives a fresh perspective

By Xiao Rong

A trip to Gansu Province in early May to investigate how the western regions were guarding against SARS resulted in a closer than expected brush with the virus for Beijing journalist Yang Chun.

The journalist from China Central Television (CCTV)'s *News Probe* spent 14 days in a local hospital as a "SARS" patient. The misdiagnosis resulted in the quarantine of over 60 people who had come into contact with Yang Chun.

Yang's diary recording his experience was published on Sina.com Monday and Tuesday. Talking about his dramatic experience in an exclusive interview with *Beijing Today*, Yang said what he had gained far outweighed what he had lost.

Dangerous trip to the west

"In the period of peace, the opportunities for a correspondent to experience real frontline reporting are rare. But the fight against SARS poses a real challenge to us reporters," said Yang when asked why he had sought to participate in the *News Probe* special SARS report.

With many migrant workers fleeing Beijing for their homes in the countryside after SARS swept the city, Yang and his team decided to visit a remote region to investigate how the local medical system would be impacted by the returning migrant workers and how the local government would react.

Dingxi region in Gansu Province, from where many local people had come to Beijing to make a living, was chosen as the destination. Two SARS cases have been found at that time in Dingxi, both migrant workers returning from Beijing.

Yang's trip to Dingxi was considered a particularly dangerous assignment by many of his CCTV colleagues, but he himself was quite confident in his health and did not seriously consider the possibility of being infected.

To better follow the route of the returning migrant workers, the team set off on May 4 on train T151, rather than flying.

Am I really a SARS case?

Before departure, the crew videotaped the precautionary inspection measures taken against SARS at the Beijing railway station. On the train, Yang interviewed migrant workers, quarantine staff and the conductor.

"What struck me first was the social and economic impact of SARS, rather

than its effects on peoples' personal lives, as most of the migrant workers we interviewed had been forced to leave Beijing because they had lost their jobs," Yang said.

On arriving at Dingxi station at about two o'clock on May 5, Yang Chun began by recording the inspection measures taken by local quarantine departments.

'I felt like I was suddenly hit by a stray bullet after trying to stand on the battlefield.'

'I was upset at first, about being misdiagnosed as a SARS case, but later I came to understand the necessity for such caution.'

— Yang Chun



"It was raining at the time and the temperature was more than 10 degrees lower than in Beijing. My interview lasted for over 20 minutes, during which time I was standing in the rain," Yang recalled.

On arriving at the hotel, Yang was running a temperature of 37.8 degrees, but he did not think it was anything serious.

The next day, however, his temperature had risen to 38.4 degrees. A colleague comforted him, telling him that it was probably just a cold.

Doctors from Dingxi Hospital arrived, prescribed some medicine and placed Yang in quarantine.

"I was feeling cold, tired and dizzy, and spent most of the day sleeping, without fearing much," said Yang. "I was later transferred to the local hospital, and it wasn't until two days later, May 8, that I learnt from the provincial medical experts who had come to treat me that I might have SARS, based on the symptoms I was showing."

Yang says his first reaction to the news was that his illness might cause trouble for the many people he had come into contact with, all the way from Beijing to Gansu. In fact over 40 local people had already been quarantined as a result, and at least 20 of his colleagues back in Beijing were also isolated.

"I felt like I was suddenly hit by a stray bullet after trying to stand on the battlefield. The war hasn't really begun but I fell down first. It was so hopelessly stupid!"

Special days

Over the next couple of days, Yang received numerous supportive calls from family, colleagues and friends.

Referring to a conversation with Li Hongwei, the recording director of the five-member CCTV team, he said, "I worried about Li the most, as he is really an excellent husband and father to his family. I just felt so sorry for him. But he comforted me in the call. We both cried."

Yang gradually got used to life as a "SARS" patient and learnt to make the most of his days in quarantine. His only diversions were an English vocabulary book, which he read through twice, and watching television.

"Going to have an X-ray every three days became like a holiday to me, as I could at least leave my room and walk to another building, which gave me a chance to enjoy the fresh air outside," said Yang.

(Continued on Page 3)

EDITOR: LI XIN DESIGNER: LI SHI



Zhou Zhengyi

Photo by Photocore

Shanghai Tycoon Under Investigation

The Shanghai municipal government confirmed Tuesday afternoon that Nongkai Group chairman Zhou Zhengyi is currently under state investigation. Municipal government spokeswoman Jiao Yang made the comment at a press conference in response to a question about whether Zhou, known as the richest businessman in Shanghai, had been detained by police.

According to Jiao, Zhou is being investigated for bribery and financial fraud, related in part to a HK \$5 billion loan from the Bank of China. Zhou's accounts in the Chinese mainland have been frozen, a Taiwan newspaper reported Wednesday.

Zhou's wife, Mao Yuping, chairwoman of the Hong Kong listed Shanghai Merchants' Holdings was detained by officers from the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) earlier on Sunday (June 1).

Nineteen other people, including Mao's brother and Wu Xirong, former deputy general manager of the Bank of China Hong Kong's corporate banking and financial institutions department, were also detained in coordinated raids on Sunday and Monday, as reported by the Guangzhou-based *21st Century Economic Report*.

The ICAC issued a statement on Monday, saying it "commenced an investigation after receiving a corruption complaint alleging that some employees of the listed company might have offered advantages to bank staff for obtaining huge sums of loans and conniving in fraudulent business transactions." No information regarding charges against Mao Yuping has been released.

ing has been released.

Hong Kong media reported that trading on Zhou's two Hong Kong-listed firms was suspended before the market open Monday. In the previous week, Zhou's Shanghai Land Holdings plunged by 41.5 percent, wiping HK \$748 million dollars off its value, while Shanghai Merchants' Holdings lost 18.72 million.

The sell-off of shares in Zhou's two Shanghai listed companies, Daying Modern Agricultural and Hainiao Developing, started earlier, on April 16. By Tuesday this week, the market value of the two had shrunk by 175.15 million yuan. On Wednesday and again Thursday, trading in the two companies was temporarily suspended.

According to Taiwan media, after news broke about Zhou being investigated, many financial institutions and business partners of Zhou's started seeking payment of outstanding debts.

On May 27, Zhou was "invited" to Beijing by the Disciplinary Committee of CPC's Central Committee and the Ministry of Security to cooperate with the probe, reported Beijing-based *China Business*.

Meanwhile Liu Jinbao, former vice chairman and president of Bank of China Hong Kong was also placed under investigation by the Disciplinary Committee. Liu is said to have close ties with Zhou.

Several ten billion yuan loans were granted to Zhou when Liu Jinbao was in charge of Bank of China Shanghai, and the last loan of US \$200 million dollars was granted to Zhou in January when Liu was president of Bank of China Hong Kong.

Edited by Iris Miao

Zhou Zhengyi was born in Shanghai and finished primary school only. He and his wife Mao Yuping opened their first business, a dumpling shop, in the late 1970s. A clothing store followed, then a karaoke bar. In 1995, he purchased several dozen former state owned enterprises at bargain prices, and began investing in real estate in Shanghai and Hong Kong. By the end of 2002, his Nongkai Group was not only the key shareholder of four listed companies, two on the Shanghai stock exchange and two in Hong Kong; but also the biggest shareholder of Datong Security and Fuyou Security. Earlier this year, Zhou was ranked No. 13 on *New Fortune* (Xin Caifu)'s list of China's 400 wealthiest business people.



Photo by Sun Ming

By Sun Ming

Vietnamese Ambassador to China Tran Van Luat described his country's successful experiences in fighting SARS during an interview with a few local reporters on Friday at the Vietnamese Embassy in Beijing.

Mr. Tran said that Vietnam's first SARS case was detected in early March. The person in question was Johnny Chen, an ailing Chinese-American businessman traveling from Hong Kong, who checked in at the Vietnam-France Hospital in Hanoi on February 26. Chen quickly infected more than half of the staff there before being sent back to Hong Kong, where he later died.

In the following several weeks, there were 68 registered SARS cases in Vietnam. However, even with its limited medical resources, there has not been

Vietnamese Ambassador Passes on Experience

a new case in the country since April 8. Five of the country's SARS victims, all of them medical staff at the Vietnam-France Hospital, have died but the other 63 have fully recovered.

Tran said, "On April 28, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Vietnam was the first country to contain the highly contagious respiratory disease, after going 20 consecutive without a new reported SARS case."

He attributed Vietnam's success to speed of action, close cooperation with WHO, and the government's leadership and transparency, which have drawn international praise.

"When doctors at the Vietnam-France Hospital suspected there was something strange about Chen's illness, they quickly called in Dr. Carlo Urbani, a Hanoi-based communicable disease expert for WHO," added Tran.

The Italian doctor quickly recognized the danger of the disease. He and Pascale Brudon, another WHO representative in Hanoi, convened an urgent meeting with high-ranking Vietnamese officials in early

March and got them wholeheartedly on board. Unfortunately, Urbani ended up contracting the disease and died in Bangkok on April 6.

The Vietnam-France Hospital, the site of the main SARS outbreak, was closed and all inside quarantined on March 11. Luckily for the country, Johnny Chen was the only "super spreader" to go to Vietnam, and all the country's SARS cases can be traced back to him.

"Our officials were open and quick to react," said Tran, "They welcomed a WHO team of international experts and began an aggressive campaign to tell the public how to avoid SARS and what to do if symptoms showed up."

From the beginning of the outbreak, the government acted quickly, setting up task forces and provincial teams, as well as establishing effective infection control procedures for hospital staff. "We took steps to prevent the disease from being brought into Vietnam, and isolation chambers were set up at airports and in provincial hospitals," said

the ambassador.

Tran continued, "Also, the media provided timely reporting of the SARS situation and the government never tried to hide the crises."

According to him, the Vietnamese government covered the medical expenses of all its SARS victims, so no one was inclined to hide their illness.

The ambassador said that even though several weeks have passed since a new SARS case was reported in Vietnam, the country has not stopped working to prevent further outbreaks of the disease. "We are still vigilant and are maintaining excellent surveillance and response systems, as another case could enter Vietnam at any time," he told reporters.

Before ending the interview, Tran said he believed China will soon be able to bring its SARS epidemic under control. "The number of SARS cases in Beijing is decreasing every day, while the number of recovered patients is on the rise. That is very inspiring to everyone living in this city," he said.

Recovery from SARS

Return of the Silver Screen

By Zhao Hongyi

After closing their doors for over 40 days in response to the SARS epidemic, some local cinemas are preparing to reopen early next week. However, authorities have warned that those theaters that do want to open again must conduct regular and thorough disinfections and take other safety precautions.

On Wednesday, Beijing Xinyinlian Film Co., a public relations and coordination firm established by 18 local cinemas, issued a notice granting member cinemas permission to reopen.

All cinemas that reopen will take safety precautions such as checking body customers' temperatures, regular disinfecting and monitoring the health of employees.

Foreign Tourist Sites Court Chinese Travelers

By Zhao Hongyi

With the World Health Organization's dismissal of its previous travel warnings to Hong Kong and Guangdong Province in early June, and possibly to Beijing and northern China by the end of this month, many countries are making statements expressing full welcome to Chinese tourists.

The South African embassy in Beijing forwarded a message to local media that says the country, which opened its door to Chinese tourists on April 1 this year, continues to welcome Chinese tourists.

A fax sent to many local travel agencies by the Thai embassy on behalf of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, a major destination for Chinese tourists, announced that the Thai government has launched an aggressive, 68-million-baht "SARS Infection Insurance Policy" intended to restore the confidence of international travelers in the safety of the country.

The policy provides medical insurance coverage for tourists that contract SARS within 90 days of their arrival, if they are proven to have been infected during their stay in the country. The policy offers up to \$10,000 to cover hospitalization costs and is valid for six months from May 20 to November 19.

European Union representatives in Beijing said they are holding discussions with Chinese authorities about opening a second group of tourist destinations to Chinese travelers within the next few months.

Vehicle Registration and Inspection Resumes

By Zhao Hongyi

The Beijing Traffic Bureau resumed the registration of new vehicles today and promised to restart annual vehicle safety inspections on June 10.

The bureau halted all new vehicle registration in April in response to the SARS epidemic, through private car purchases spiked over the past several weeks as people scared of public transportation looked for personal, safe means of getting around. During that time, the bureau continued to issue temporary registration plates, but increasing numbers of unregistered cars showed up on city streets.

A notice issued by the bureau on Wednesday reminds all private car owners to submit their vehicles for inspection before August 31, while all corporate-owned vehicles should be inspected before September 30.

Tang Jun of the bureau's public affairs office said, "Things have to get back to normal, though we still have to stay on high alert about the epidemic."

According to Tang, over 5,000 new vehicles await registration, while hundreds of thousands need to undergo safety inspections. "The accumulated workload is tremendous," he said.

Companies Look to Expand Despite Crisis

By Ema Ma

Two surveys conducted during the middle of May have shown that expansion, though generally delayed as a result of the SARS outbreak, is still the focus of most companies operating in China.

A survey conducted by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, one of the world's leading professional services organizations, and the magazine *CFO China* during the second week of May indicated that nearly nine out of 10 Chinese companies plan to expand their operations within the next two years.

Forty-two senior executives from Chinese companies including private enterprises, state-owned enterprises and foreign-invested enterprises (FIEs) based in and around Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai were interviewed to ascertain the impact of SARS on their investment plans. Their responses showed that the overall strategic directions of most Chinese companies' expansion plans have not been affected by the epidemic, through short-term delays of around six months in the timeframe of those plans can be expected.

From May 6 to 9, the local survey firm Horizonkey conducted telephone interviews with 314 FIEs in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. That results showed that 55.7 percent of the interviewed foreign companies would expand their investment in China within five years, an increase of 4.2 percent over the results of the same interview conducted last year.

The government's bailout policies are considered by FIEs as the main factor boosting investment confidence in China. Around 68 percent of the firms queried agreed that the government must implement favorable financial policies to save companies from the impact of SARS. The surveyed FIEs particularly called for extending interest-free loans to struggling companies, seeking international aid, issuing government bonds and implementing favorable credit policies to stimulate consumption of durables such as cars and property.

A Holiday for Wildlife

By Ema Ma

June 1 was a day to celebrate not only for children, but also for China's wild animals.

Last Friday, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) and the State Forestry Administration (SFA) announced at a press conference that markets selling wild animals and related products, including legal dealers approved to sell non-endangered animals, would be temporarily closed as of June 1. Hunting was also banned for three months starting that day.

Wang Zhongfu, director of the SAIC,

said at the press conference that evidence has shown that SARS virus might be connected with certain kinds of wild animals, necessitating the removal of wild animals and related products from markets nationwide for an indefinite period.

"We are not sure how long the markets will be closed, it will depend on further lab results," Mr. Li, who requested his full name not be used, from the SFA's public affairs department told *Beijing Today*.

At the press conference, SFA director Zhou Shengxian said, "except for

use in making medicines, the country will control strictly the hunting of wildlife, with the hunting of animals for eating completely prohibited."

In response to this order, the Beijing government, China Culinary Association and China Consumers' Association began a campaign to keep local hotels and restaurants from selling foods made from wild animals.

All restaurants and other business in the food service industry must remove words such as "game" from their logos and menus or have their business licenses revoked.

Policy Intended to Push Real Estate Buying

By Ema Ma

After weeks of minimal consumer activity, these are gravy days for prospective homebuyers thanks to a 100-day-long promotion offering good terms on mortgage loans that started last Friday.

The promotion, initiated by local developers, is a response to government actions to push the real estate industry out of its recent recession. Among the favorable terms on offer are expanding mortgages from 300,000 to 400,000 yuan and cutting down payments to 10 percent of the sale price for presale housing and five percent for finished or subsidized housing.

For its part, the Beijing government has taken measures to simplify building approval procedures and slashed taxes to encourage real estate investment.

Lifesaver Thrown to SMEs and Big Ticket Consumers

By Ema Ma

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) engaged in the entertainment, restaurant, travel, decoration, exhibition and retail fields can breathe a little easier in these difficult days thanks to the extension of up to 6 billion yuan in favorably-termed loans.

The loans were organized by the Beijing Commerce Commission and two banks as an urgent measure to keep many SMEs from going bankrupt, as many companies have been struggling to cover daily operating costs, such as water, electricity and rental fees and loan payments, due to the SARS epidemic.

Nearly 99 percent of the companies in Beijing's service industry are SMEs.

Among the favorable conditions of the new loans is that 10 percent of first-year interest payments will be returned to SMEs in cash.

Individual purchasers of cars, houses and other durables can also enjoy 10-percent cuts in loan interest rates.

The favorable terms will run until six months after the World Health Organization announces Beijing has no new SARS cases.

No Excuses for Lower Pay

By Ema Ma

The Beijing Federation of Trade Unions issued a notice recently forbidding employers from ending employees' contracts on the grounds of preventing the spread of SARS, laying off suspected or confirmed SARS patients or people in quarantine and not paying salaries, even in enterprises that have halted production.

According to a report issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security on Monday, overall salaries nationwide are expected to increase by six to eight percent this year, far lower than last year's 14.3 percent rise. The Ministry reminded local governments and trade unions to closely watch for companies that try to alleviate the economic effects of SARS through reducing or abusing their workforce.

New Zealand Donates to Fight Against Virus

By Xiao Rong

The New Zealand Agency for International Development donated NZ\$850,000 on Wednesday to help China in its fight against the SARS epidemic.

A total of NZ\$700,000 of those funds went to the World Health Organizations to support their anti-SARS efforts in this country. The remaining money went to the International Red Cross and their China counterpart.

Mr. John McKinnon, New Zealand ambassador to China, said at a ceremony held Wednesday that the donation is aimed at providing funds for technical assistance to provinces that have reported significant SARS outbreaks.

"The donation will also go towards an international collaborative network for research on the new disease. SARS is a universal problem and it's important that all countries unite in facing it," he said.

End to Family Style Eating

By Ema Ma

Among its many effects, SARS is poised to change the way this whole country eats.

The Standard on Separate Service in Dining set by the China Hotels Association was recently approved by the General Administration of Quality Supervision and will be promoted among restaurants nationwide.

This standard must be realized by restaurants with dining rooms that can accommodate over 100 customers and measure over 300 square meters.

Separate service will generally be implemented by waitstaff using specific chopsticks or serving utensils to divide a dish among diners or serve customers from buffets.

China's ancient tradition of eating from one plate has long been associated with unity and sharing among friends and family. However, in the wake of the SARS epidemic, that tradition is being forced to make way for more hygienic and safer dining habits.

"Separate Service" signs will be awarded to restaurants that meet the standard, while those that do not will not be permitted to hold large banquets or dinner parties.

Costly Treatment

By Lily Li

Qi Heng (a pseudonym), a 25-year-old who contracted SARS on March 30 while working as an intern at a local hospital, was stunned to learn that her bill for the one-month treatment at You An Hospital came to 40,000 yuan.

The two-page tab has more than 100 items, the most expensive of which is a medicine charged at 850 yuan per time.

Qi has no formal employment

now, and her husband's earnings only cover daily living expenses. She said she was never asked for payment while a patient, but upon being discharged, the hospital insisted that the fee be settled before she left, so she and her husband borrowed the money from relatives.

The Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Social Security and Ministry of Civil Affairs jointly announced on

May 1 that SARS patients and suspected patients should pay their own medical expenses.

"According to this rule, the medical fees for SARS patients and suspected patients who are Beijing citizens without jobs and workers from other provinces are covered by the city government," said Zhang.

The rule states that hospitals should "cure first and get paid last." Prior to that, a rule was issued by the Beijing Bu-

reau of Labor and Social Security stating that hospitals should not refuse SARS patients for any reason.

Sources from the accounting section of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital said funds from the government currently insufficient to cover the medical expenses and SARS equipment purchases.

At that hospital, it costs between 10,000 and 200,000 yuan for the treatment of each

SARS patient.

At Jishuitan Hospital, a suspected SARS patient has to spend about 5,000 yuan per week during the investigation period, which is much higher than that of an ordinary patient, who faces an average weekly bill of around 1,400 yuan.

According to the China Sanitation Policy and Management Research Center, a low-grade patient needs 1,100 yuan for

daily medical treatment and a serious patient needs 3,200 yuan per day. The average expense for a SARS patient is about 100,000 yuan.

However, Zhang said the government set up a SARS prevention and cure fund with two billion yuan on April 23, and the primary use for this money is to cure SARS patients.

"The government is sparing no efforts to defend citizens' lives," he insisted.

No Discrimination against Recovered SARS Patients

The Ministry of Civil Administration issued a notice on June 3 stating recovered SARS patients should not be discriminated against.

It calls on local residents to help these people resume their normal lives and overcome any practical difficulties they may face. It also says recovered SARS patients should not be rejected for employment on the basis that they had SARS.

(Beijing Times)

Life after Recovery

By Su Wei

As one of the first recovered SARS patients of Beijing's Xiaotangshan Hospital, Lao Li (a pseudonym) says he can understand why many people treat him a little circumspectly when they learn about his recent past. "It will change after some time. Everything will be better," he told *Beijing Today*.

Every morning after getting up around six o'clock, he takes a short walk, wearing his face mask. "I do not talk to anyone. I usually try to keep some distance from people, especially acquaintances," he says.

But he says most people in his community treat him in a friendly manner, though they all know that he was a SARS patient. "Some elderly women usually say hello to me first and chat with me for several minutes."

He says he was so happy when a colleague, not wearing a face mask, spoke to him face to face when they happened to meet.

Not everyone is so warm, he says, mentioning a family who live downstairs. "Whenever they see me, the parents immediately turn their heads away and the child runs in the opposite direction, for them, I am a monster."

Such reactions are simply a result of ignorance, he says. "I know I am a healthy person and will not infect others. Otherwise the hospital would not let me leave," he said. "But I cannot explain this to them. The more I explain the worse they would respond. So I just let everything go naturally."

Since his recovery, he frequently returns to the Naval Hospital, where he and his wife were both diagnosed and initially hospitalized. "Medical staff there seem to be more afraid of me than anyone else." He says when he first came to the hospital to ask for an itemized list of his and his wife's fees, two days after being discharged from Xiaotangshan Hospital, he was refused entry to the clinic building. "They said if I dared come in, they would call the police."

Lao Li says now he is allowed to enter the clinic, but cannot talk to any administration staff. "I need an itemized account in order to get my fees reimbursed."

Hospital Prepares to Resume Normal Services

By Su Wei

With the recovery of the last group of SARS patients of Tsinghua University Jiuxianqiao Hospital on May 31, the hospital is no longer designated as a special hospital for SARS patients. "We have a lot of tasks to do," said President Li Tao on it reverting to a general hospital.

"Around 60 medical staff of the hospital in three teams are preparing to work either in one of the seven hospitals still dedicated to SARS patients, should any lack staff, or in our hospital, should the SARS situation suddenly worsen," Li said.

Studies of SARS cases conducted by the hospital are speeding up. "We began such research in April. But we did not have enough time to sit properly and study all the cases we have. We will compare them to determine the changes among SARS patients affected by the illness to different degrees."

Other staff are to take training courses organized by the hospital to strengthen their professional skills, Li says. "The hospital will not reopen to the

public till September. We cannot do nothing during that time. We need to think about the future of the hospital."

Regarding the financial impact of SARS on the hospital, Li said "Our monthly income was between 14 million and 20 million yuan before April. We will incur a loss of over 100 million yuan for the period from April to August. We even do not have enough funds for a planned reconstruction project. We really need to find some ways to raise money."



Li Tao, president of Tsinghua University Jiuxianqiao Hospital.

Photo by Su Wei



Li Xingwang, director of Ditan Hospital

A Physician Healed

By Lisa Lee

Sun Yan, deputy director of the liver disease department at Renmin Hospital, never expected that one day he would become a patient of his old friend Li Xingwang, the director of the second patient district of Ditan Hospital.

Several days before he was discharged from the hospital, Sun told reporters about his new image of his old friend Li, "He saved patients, and he dedicated all his love to them."

Sun started to receive SARS treatment on April 10. He suffered from high fever from April 18 until April 22, when he was transferred to Ditan Hospital. He immediately started to feel better thanks to the responsible attitudes of the doctors and nurses towards their patients. He became confident about his ability to recover from the disease.

However on June 23, his condition

deteriorated dramatically. Li Xingwang was one of the doctors that joined the struggle to save his life, which lasted 10 days.

"Not a single word from those doctors failed to give me strength, although I couldn't catch all of their words when I was hit by the disease," Sun said later.

During his one-month stay in hospital, Sun always caught Li's encouraging smile through his eyes, although Li always wore a mask, "Every time he would tell me that my condition was getting better and I could definitely recover if I insisted on coordinating with their therapy for me."

"Through my own experience of illness as a doctor, I could not only better understand patients now but also realize the difficulty of doctors when they kept smiling to the patients and giving them hope."

Photo by Jackey

SARS in a Writer's Eyes

By Su Wei

For novelist Bi Shumin, it is through SARS that she could gain a glimpse of people's inner life.

She recalls visiting Beijing Youan Hospital on May 23 and speaking to medical staff fighting in the front line against SARS.

"The vice president of the hospital, a man in his 40s and a doctor for over 20 years, shed tears when telling of his experience fighting against SARS since the early of March," she said. "Before I became a writer, I was a physician. So I can understand for an experienced doctor like him, shedding tears means he must have carried an unbearable burden."

"They deserve respect as medical staff due to their courage. They deserve more respect as human beings. They do not know how long they still need to fight SARS. They have no choice but to stick to their positions and devote

themselves the fight." Bi says she does not want to use the word "should" in talking about the medical staff's choice. "It is a requirement from their occupations. They must go to the front line."

She also emphasized that a strong belief was important for a SARS patient to survive and their family to overcome any difficulties. She says a 20-year-old nurse of Beijing Youan Hospital, did not want to tell her mother that she had contracted SARS a dozen days after taking care of SARS patients in the middle of March. "Even when she lost the ability to breathe properly, she still called her mother every day. Each time she took oxygen and forced herself to cough strongly, then called her mother for a one minute talk," recalled Bi.

"The mother did not learn that her daughter had SARS until May 12. She then never watched TV programs about SARS,

which she used to in order to see if she could spot her daughter." She says she is impressed by the nurse's not regretting being a nurse. "She tells me that she would still choose to be a nurse if there is a next life. Her mother says she still want to be her mother and support her decision," said Bi.



Bi Shumin

Photo by Su Wei



Schools to Install More Taps

By Lisa Lee

The Education Commission of Haidian district has begun to install taps for more than 160 elementary schools and middle schools in Haidian since May 26 in order to guarantee the hygienic safety of students and teachers.

According to Hou Wanqiang, head of the Housing Administration Institute of Haidian District, the Education Commission requested that each school with 1,000

students or more should have installed at least 40 taps.

In addition, there must be facilities for students to wash their hands. "In this way, all the students can wash their hands before entering the classrooms and remain clean during the class," said Hou.

Over 160 schools are required to install a total of 5,000 new 0 taps. The work is to be finished before June 20.

Photo by Lily

Just a Slight Fever ...

(Continued from Page 1)

He received a letter from a junior school student who lived beside the hospital. She encouraged Yang to accept the fact and try to be optimistic during treatment.

"The girl's letter cheered me up a lot, though there were also comments on the Internet, my friends told me, saying 'Dingxi is so poor, but you guys still come here to infect us.'"

Back to freedom

After six days of treatment, Yang's SARS symptoms had not developed so typically and he seemed to be feeling better and better.

His doubts about whether he really had SARS were confirmed on May 14, by two medical experts sent by the Ministry of Health to Dingxi.

"I learnt the good news the day after the check up. The experts confirmed that I was suffering from typical pneumonia, not SARS," Yang said.

To his disappointment, however, he could not leave immediately. The local health authorities insisted he continue to receive treatment until he had fully recovered.

The next five days seemed even more unbearable than the previous days. But Yang managed to videotape part of his life in the hospital and the work of the local hospital staff, with a camera brought by the *News Probe* producer who accompanied the health ministry experts to visit Yang.

"Though the making of our program was delayed by my illness, I think my atypical experience as a 'SARS' patient in the local hospital has helped me learn about the real side of their medical work," said Yang.

"I was upset at first, about being misdiagnosed as a SARS case, but later I came to understand the necessity for such caution," he said.

Yang's internment as a "SARS" patient ended on May 19 and he has now resumed his normal work. When asked whether he regretted going to Dingxi for the interview, he said he only felt sorry for the troubles his unexpected illness had caused others.

"The experience has more or less changed my understanding of life, teaching me to value those more important things, like freedom and health."

Battling the Rumors

Yunnan woman resorts to legal proof of virginity

By Chen Ying

A 35-year-old woman in Kunming recently decided to put a stop to scurrilous rumors among her colleagues by applying for legal proof of her virginity, according to Kunming-based newspaper “Sheng Huo Xin Bao”.

“A woman came to the office on May 12,” Wen Shurong, director of Panlong District Notarization Office in Kunming, told Beijing Today. The woman showed her ID card and a certificate from a local hospital which showed her hymen was still intact. The date on the certificate was just one day before she came to the office.

“She said she wanted legal notarization of her virginity,” said Wen. “This is the first time a person has asked for this kind of service in our office.”

The woman said the reason she had not got married was that she was constantly busy with her job. But her colleagues had their own ideas about her single status. “Apparently they thought she was still single because she was something of a loose woman,” Wen said.

“Though we understand her situation, this doesn’t really fall into our business category,” Wen said. He said it was more a medical and moral question.

The woman’s story caught

the imagination of the local media who asked whether or not she should be entitled to such a legal “guarantee” and why she should be driven to this. Opinions follow:

Tong Qiang, professor of Law Department, Beijing University

The law doesn’t really cover this kind of thing. But in accordance with the legislative spirit of taking notarization voluntarily, we can apply a legal basis to the woman’s requirement. The reason her requirement was rejected was that the local notarization official was too formal in defining the notarization category.

Notarization of virginity is just a personal request for legal recognition of a person’s physical condition. This wouldn’t harm or pose any threat to society. So society should respect her decision.

Moreover, an important standard in judging a society’s openness and harmony is that everyone has the right to do whatever they want so long as it’s not contrary to law and public morals.

Cao Lin, major in communication, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

The need to resort to medical

proof is a sign of the breakdown of society. In some western scholars minds, social relationships among people have disappeared. Today, society is represented only by a pile of statistics from surveys. The invention and popularity of paternity tests are a sign of the end of traditional belief between couples. Certifying virginity before marriage shows the failure of moral belief in marriage and love.

We can’t ignore the merit of these kinds of proof, because they can’t lie. They can even solidify two people’s belief in one another. But there is also a price to pay. What kind of society do we have if a close relationship can only be maintained in this way? A couple will be glad to share happiness after they have a baby. But what is the basis of such happiness if it is established through a paternity test?

Pan Fengliang, Internet surfer

The real reason people are talking about her has nothing to do with whether she is a virgin. Also, this kind of legal notification won’t put a stop to the gossip.

Today’s variety of values and greater choice are just symbols of social openness and civilization. People who are unconventional always have to

pay some price for breaking with tradition.

Just because there are a variety of values and different stances, people begin to distrust each other. So people can’t believe each other any more and chose more concrete ways to satisfy themselves. It’s not a belief crisis, just a change in society’s rules.

Huang Wenjie, commentator from China Youth Daily

Gossip can potentially cause great harm to society. Women are often in a weaker position to fight back against rumors. They have to bear them silently or explain themselves helplessly. So female rights are often trampled by gossip.

This is an ingrained characteristic among Chinese, the talent to provoke rumors about personal or private topics. After several thousand years of feudal influence, people still care about the hymen or virgin issue. It causes unreasonable suspicion and abuse of unmarried women. The woman in Kunming was forced to take action because of prejudice, conservatism and vulgarity.

But legal notarization of virginity is still a negative response. We should think about how to develop a really open and free social environment.

SOUND BITES

“This is more than just a commercial deal; it is a strategic choice. Russia and China are being tied together by bonds of gas and oil. To some extent this is aimed at blocking the expansion of US influence in Central Asia. Russia and China are worried that the US will not stop with Iraq, and attempts to resist are driving them closer together.”

— Sergei Lusyanin, an expert with the Institute of Far Eastern Studies in Moscow, regarding a new agreement to expand cooperation on energy, arms, regional security and space between Russia and China.

“We will never be ready to lay down arms until the liberation of the last centimeter of the land of Palestine.”

— Hamas official Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi. Palestinian militant groups vowed on Wednesday they would not disarm, defying an appeal by Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas issued at a US-led peace summit with Israel.

“I have to change my battery once a day in order to keep my phone working, and the frequent ringing makes me feel that life is full.”

— Tang Hui, 25, a salesperson for a Beijing commercial housing company, has become accustomed to his professional image of being busy on his mobile phone all day. According to noted psychologist Yang Ling, a new kind of mental disease called “mobile phone dependence” plagues a growing number of Chinese mobile phone users, especially the youth.

“As a wife, I wanted to wring Bill’s neck. Buddy, the dog, came along to keep Bill company. He was the only member of our family who was still willing to.”

— Hillary Rodham Clinton, now the Democratic senator from New York, says her husband, the former US president Bill Clinton’s relationship with Monica Lewinsky caused a lot of pain. Her memoirs, covering her eight years in the White House, go on sale next week.

“She’s been a unifying force. She’s here as a long-term head of state, whereas people like prime ministers are just passing politicians who come and go.”

— Maurice Hudson, now an aviation planner, once participated in the 1953 festivities of Queen Elizabeth’s glittering coronation. He said he couldn’t resist the chance to see the queen commemorate her 50th anniversary on Monday.

“To suggest that I couldn’t overcome that and win it? I always believe I can find a way. So next year I’ll try to figure it out again.”

— Andre Agassi, the oldest entrant in the 128-man French Open tournament. His bid to land a second French Open crown ended in failure when Argentine seventh-seeded Guillermo Coria beat the 33-year-old American to reach the men’s semi-finals.

By Chen Ying

Readers & Leaders

A new column kicks off from this issue, a space for readers and writers. We welcome your letters and articles, preferably around 700 words. Please give your full name, current address and phone number (not necessarily for publication). You can email us at comment@ ynet.com or fax us at (010) 6590 2525.

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Beijing Today.

Privileged Few

By Huoshan

The SARS scare seems to have died out and almost everything is now back to normal in Beijing. And that daily source of irritation, the traffic, is again trying to flow as normal.

“Normal” means congestion, queues, and transgression of traffic laws and accidents!

Did you know that more than 25,000 people were killed in the traffic in China in the first three months of this year?

Why is it that some people think they have privileges in traffic at the expense of others? Over my seven years in Beijing I have always wondered about that. I mean according to law, and we do agree that a country must be built by and ruled by law, every man, woman and child are equal; their social status, their wealth, their family relations or their job does not count in the face of law.

The laws of China apply to all citizens, whether a migrant worker from Hunan, who sweeps and cleans the streets, or the general manager of a famous company.

When it comes to traffic, not only Chinese citizens must abide by the law, so must foreigners.

I know very well that some traffic police officers are shy, when it comes to their foreign language ability. And a foreigner who has violated traffic law in China can sometimes get away with it, because the policeman may not think he can handle the situation in English. That is not fair. A violation of the law is a violation of the law, no

matter who is responsible.

Sad to say, but some of the worst violators of traffic law in Beijing are a group of privileged foreigners, particularly embassy and consular staff.

True, international agreements protect diplomatic staff from being prosecuted. But that does not give them the right to violate laws.

It is shameful, when this happens. And it does every day in Beijing.

Diplomats should be representatives of their country. Really they should set good examples. But Beijingers lose respect for these “privileged” foreigners, when they behave like that in traffic.

If anyone violates traffic law, they should be stopped, reprimanded and a report should be made. There is no international agreement that allows diplomatic staff to violate the traffic laws of a country, and there is no international agreement that hinders traffic police in reporting such violations. Reports about traffic violations by diplomatic staff should be made and should be channeled to the ambassador of the country concerned as a reminder.

Niels Peter Arskog, 57, whose Chinese name is Huoshan, comes from Iceland and has been living and working in Beijing for the past seven years as a foreign correspondent for Danish and Icelandic newspapers.

Stars Should Stop Promoting Smoking

By Cindy L. Jiang

One sunny day in May recently while visiting Brussels, I asked Kim Khuchul, a German friend, why there were so many smokers in Europe. I wasn’t asking because World Tobacco Day was coming up on May 31, but because I’d noticed so many people smoking in other European cities I had been to.

Kim said he felt there were more smokers in Beijing. Kim paid a short-term visit to Beijing last winter and strolled around quite a lot.

I pointed out all the huge cigarette advertisements on the streets in Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Amsterdam. Cigarette brands are also advertised on TV and in newspapers. Tobacco advertising is forbidden in China.

Anyhow, Kim at least agreed that there are more women smokers in Europe. “Women start smoking at a much younger age,” he said. In his opinion, these young women smokers come mostly from more liberal families. Also, parents who smoke would usually say, “Don’t smoke too early”, rather than “Don’t smoke.”

It seems a lot of people take up smoking merely through following fashion initially, before it becomes a regular habit. The problem is that fashion promotes tobacco in China nowadays. The tobacco-control office of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention recently conducted a probe into the most popular films and TV series in 2001

and 2002. All 10 of the films in the probe featured scenes of smoking. And each of the eight TV soap series featured people who were smoking.

Movie and TV stars are fashion leaders. In effect, they are promoting smoking, especially to youngsters. The probe concluded that among smokers aged from 15 to 19 in China, 80 percent say they smoke just to follow the cool fashionable stars on TV.

Not only in China. Tobacco fashion on our screens is global. Hence, the World Health Organization adopted the theme of World No Tobacco Day 2003 to promote “Tobacco-free Film, Tobacco-free Fashion”.

While they might consider their social responsibility more closely, the star smokers might also re-think what the real fashion is these days. Health is the real fashion.

“Smoking is no longer fashionable because it has become a common living habit to most ordinary people,” one of my friends who quit smoking once told me. He says he now feels cool and unusual among smokers. “When smoking is common, not smoking is more fashionable.”

Another Chinese friend who doesn’t smoke once talked about why he would not smoke: “because I have made so much money, I want to live longer and enjoy it more.”

Cindy L. Jiang, deputy director of Beijing Today

Foreigners Can Lay Their Heads Where They Want

By Lily Li

The Beijing Public Security Bureau last Monday announced the abolition of 50-year-old rules that set limitations for where foreign travelers could reside in the capital. The next day, eight municipal districts began trials of new rules that allow foreigners who come to the city for short periods of time to basically live where they please. The new regulation will become effective city-wide on October 1.

According to the previous rules, foreigners staying in Beijing temporarily could only live in appointed foreigner-approved hotels that were so designated after passing a set of strict examinations and approval procedures by the Beijing government and met

requirements related to size, quality and facilities.

The new rules, titled "Abolish Habitation Limits for Foreigners in the Whole City and Strengthen the Management of Temporary Habitation of Foreigners" and "Standards for Public Security Management in Hotels" allow foreign visitors to live wherever they like, with the exception of places that may compromise national security, such as closed districts and military areas.

"Foreigners can even live in citizens' homes in *hutongs*," said Zhang Jiawang, vice director general of the Beijing Public Security Bureau.

All qualified hotels can now accept foreign guests, though they must uphold strict registration

procedures.

Zhang said the city would institute more high-technology management measures to record basic information about foreign guests. Foreigners who want to live in locals' homes should first report to area police station or residential committee. "Such measures can help us supervise and protect their safety," added Zhang.

Earlier this year, the Beijing government announced that foreign residents would be eligible for two-to-five year long-term residence permits.

According to Zhang Yue, another vice director general of the Beijing Public Security Bureau, the loosened rules are intended to attract more foreigners to invest, do business, travel and study in Beijing.

Before the new policy, this city was home to 300 foreign-approved hotels and received more than 3 million foreign tourists in 2002, leading to total earnings of \$3.1 billion for the tourism industry. By the end of last year, 9,172 foreign-invested companies and 8,028 representative institutes of foreign companies had registered with the Beijing Bureau of Industry and Commerce.

"Abolishing the limits for foreigners' habitation is an important reflection of our work to obey the basic rules of equity, impartiality and non-discrimination and a move towards using international customs as references and meeting international requirements," said Zhang Yue.



Suspected kidnapper Gu Wei

Photo by Hu Rong

Rescued Hostage Faces Justice

By Hu Rong / Su Wei

Last Wednesday, the Beijing police released information on an unusual kidnapping case that was reported and solved in late May.

On May 22, the Beijing Public Security Bureau received a call from a person from Zhuhai, Guangdong Province who said they knew of a man who had been kidnapped. Later, the police managed to rescue the hostage, but then placed him and his cousin under arrest for being involved in a prostitution racket.

At 2 pm on May 22, Wang Jianwei called the Beijing Police from Zhuhai and claimed his younger cousin, Wang Qun, had been kidnapped and held at a ransom of 200,000 yuan. He said the kidnappers had demanded he put the money into two designated bank accounts or they would kill Wang Qun.

The following morning, the police discovered that the two accounts had been opened under the name of Wang Qun in branches of the Industrial and Commercial Bank and Communication Bank near Shangdi, Haidian District, by a young man late on the morning of May 22. Bank security guards recalled that the man was around 178 centimeters tall and spoke with a northeastern accent.

Wang Jianwei arrived in Beijing at noon on May 23 at the request of the Beijing police.

He identified the man who opened the bank accounts as Gu Wei, whom the cousins had met in April in Zhuhai.

The police then went to a house Gu rented in Tianshuiyuan, Chaoyang District, where they apprehended him and his

girlfriend, Che Jinyu.

Gu confessed to kidnapping Wang Qun without hesitation. "I didn't intend to kidnap him, my original target was Wang Jianwei," he told the police. "Wang Jianwei is a pimp who gets girls from the Chinese mainland to be prostitutes in Macau. He did that to my girlfriend."

He continued that Wang Qun was locked in an apartment in the Yongtai community in Qinghe, Haidian District, under the watchful eyes of some acquaintances.

Che told police that she met and became friends with Wang Jianwei at a bar where she worked as a waitress in July 2002 in Donggang, Liaoning Province. She later agreed to a deal to go to Macau and be a prostitute because she wanted to make money, through Wang said a total of 70,000 yuan would be deducted from her income as an arrangement fee.

"In the following over six months, I ended up having to turn over around 120,000 yuan and he still said it was not enough," Che said.

In mid-April this year in Zhuhai, she met Gu, who volunteered to help her. In early May, Che ran away from Macau with Gu and headed to Beijing, where the two later concocted a plan to kidnap Wang Jianwei for revenge.

After rescuing Wang Qun at 6:40 pm on May 23, the Beijing police arrested him and his elder cousin. They are being held in detention at the Haidian Branch of the Beijing Public Security Bureau, along with Gu, Che and eight others involved in the case.

Hospital Thief Caught Sneaking into Community

By Liu Ping / Su Wei

After having robbed 18 local hospitals 24 times since last March, Wang Jun, 37, was caught by Beijing Public Security Bureau, Dongcheng Branch while trying to sneak into a residential community to burgle private homes on May 21. The police released a report on the apprehension of the thief last Wednesday.

Wang was questioned by police on routine patrol as he walked through the Xinzhong Xili community at around 2 am, carrying a large black bag. He insisted he had done nothing wrong, but when police searched the bag, they discovered it contained a hacksaw, screwdriver, knife and a flashlight. When Wang was unable

to provide an explanation for why he was carrying the tools, the police took him to the Dongzhimen police station.

At the station, the police found Wang had been sentenced to two years in prison in 1987 for stealing color televisions and sentenced to another year in jail in 1991 for stealing bicycles.

Forty hours after he was brought to the station, Wang gave up and confessed to the police. He told them he had taken advantage of hospitals' 24-hour clinic services to break in between 8 pm and 11 pm. He continued that on each occasion, he made off with cash, computers, digital cameras, fax machines and mobile phones from hospital offices.

"Few people ever questioned me, even when they saw me walking around carrying those things," he said. "In fact, I often had to ask hospital personnel where the administration offices or emergency rooms were."

According to the police, Wang stole over 100,000 yuan in cash since last March. After each theft, Wang hid in a house he rented in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province, where he also stashed the loot.

Wang told the police he had not committed any thefts since the outbreak of SARS in Beijing. "I need money, but I am afraid of getting SARS if I go into hospitals, so I decided to try burgling residences," he confessed.



Wang Jun Photo by Zhang Xianle



Photo by Wu Qiang

Promotion Draws Shoppers Back to Golden Street

By Lily Li

Life returned to Wangfujing last Saturday, after weeks of near silence in the wake of the SARS epidemic, with the opening of an outdoor shopping activity called "Walking on the Golden Street and Letting Your Heart Fly".

Shoppers swarmed, children milled around and salesmen did their best to draw customers. According to the Wangfujing street management department, about 100,000 people turned out on Saturday, and the outdoors stands set up by 14 shops brought in

267,900 yuan and the stores themselves did 3,860,7000 yuan in sales, a 38 percent increase from the previous Saturday.

The activity, open from 3 pm to 8 pm weekdays and 10 am to 8 pm on weekends, will continue through June 10.

Designs of Two Olympic Gyms to be Picked

By Hou Mingxin

Designs for the Olympic Shooting Gymnasium and Laoshan Cycling Gymnasium will be up for evaluation in the Beijing International Conference Center from June 3 to 10, the Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday.

The winner of that evaluation will become the final design for the two gymnasiums, which will be major venues for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

However, out of concern for public safety, the design exhibition will not be open to the general public.

According to the sources from the State Sport Administration, the organizer of the evaluation, 11 designs, including four from overseas, will be considered, six for the shooting gymnasium and the rest for the cycling gymnasium.

The evaluation panel, made up of nine architects and experts, two foreign and seven Chinese, will announce their decision next Monday.

China has promised the International Olympic Committee that construction of the two gymnasiums will begin as scheduled at the end of the year, according to Xinhua.

For their protection, all members of the panel will live in an isolated, thoroughly disinfected floor of the Beijing Celebrity International Hotel throughout the evaluation. Panelists and other staff involved in the evaluation have also undergone strict health exams and body temperature monitoring over the past two weeks.

Quarantine Ward Set Up at Capital International Airport

By Lisa Lee

A quarantine ward set up especially for epidemic control was put into use in the Capital International Airport on June 2. It is the first such facility at an entry and exit port in China.

The main purpose of the ward at present is to isolate suspected SARS victims for later examination. People believed to be infected can be quickly moved to the quarantine area through a special pas-

sage, where they will undergo a series of medical checks. The aim of setting up the ward is to effectively protect other passengers, air crew, medical workers and airport staff.

The ward has a total area of 182 square meters and houses a movable X-ray machine and other advanced medical equipment, along with video intercoms and a high-tech garbage disposal system that is automatically monitored to insure the

complete isolation of the quarantine area.

Moreover, it features a special pressure-reducing design that renders interior air pressure lower than that outside, preventing any possible contagious leak.

Construction of the ward, which would normally need over two months to complete, was finished in a mere eight days thanks to high-tech methods and hard work.

Internet Rumor Monger Arrested

By Lily Li

Huang Qunwei, 25, a junior college graduate, was charged with publicizing false information about SARS through the Internet by the No.1 Branch of the Beijing People's Procuratorate last Thursday. It is the first time a person has been charged with such a crime in the capital.

On April 25, Huang, unemployed, went to the website Xilu.com and posted articles with titles like "Reliable News: X City Concealed Reports of a Great Number of SARS Cases" and "Don't Go to X City". In these articles, he claimed that 400 people had already died of SARS in a major Chinese city, and that in order to cover up the epidemic,

the local government transported the bodies out of town and buried them in a suburban area. He claimed the number of people who had contracted SARS in the city was unknown.

He posted more articles, with such titles as "Experts from the Ministry of Finance Have Confirmed China Has Entered a Period of Economic Crisis Because of SARS" and "The Ministry of Commerce Found Commodity Prices Rose Rapidly in Many Places" on April 27. Three days later, he added pieces about a guard in a Beijing university illegally making money through controlling students' entry and exit during the SARS period.

Huang was arrested in his

home on May 4. He later confessed to the police that he had created all the content of the articles, including all the figures. In his confession, he said he believed that the Internet world is fictitious and that people have the right to say what they want without penalty of arrest.

Following the judicial explanations related to SARS crimes enacted by the national government on May 14, the No.1 Branch of the Beijing People's Procuratorate pronounced Huang guilty of publishing false and terror-related information that created public panic and severely disrupted social order. Investigations of the case continue.

Movie Monopoly Cracked

By Shan Jinliang/Jiang Wei

China's import movie distribution monopoly will come to an end by mid-June after Beijing Bureau of Industry and Commerce approved a business license for a second movie distributor of foreign films, Huaxia Film Distribution Company, on Tuesday.

Huaxia chairman Liu Jianzhong, also former director of the Film Bureau of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), said the company would run on a trial basis from June 16 according to the timetable.

Another step to boost film market

The establishment of Huaxia Film will mark the end of a 50-year monopoly for China Import and Export Film Corporation (CIEFC), a subsidiary of China Film Group, said Gu Guoqing, director of the Plan-

ning and Accounting Division of the SARFT Film Bureau.

The film industry received a boost last June when theater chains were established around China under governmental supervision, said Mao Yu, director of SARFT Film Bureau's Publicity and Distribution Division.

A big name that could match its big brother

Gu said the new company, with a registered capital of 60 million yuan, will be able to match CIEFC, its only rival. It is backed jointly by 19 state-owned enterprises, including major shareholders China Radio, Film and Television Group who have a 20 percent stake.

The company also owns successful theater chains and has extensive marketing experience in film distribution. "With capital collaboration from 19 companies, the comprehensive

strength of Huaxia will enable it to overtake China Film Group, and as a company with multiple backers, Huaxia will have a more flexible operation mechanism," said Gu.

Ticket price fall?

Gu said theater chains and individual cinemas would now be able to choose between the two film distribution companies, and the increased competition could result in a cut in ticket prices, since movie theaters would be able to pay less for the movies.

Wang Ao, Business Department Manager of China-Stellar Theater Chain Company under China Film Group was not so optimistic. "Like the theater chains, Huaxia is also established under the governmental order," said Wang. "The film authorities will not allow the two to fight too aggressively as that would damage their box office. Ticket prices proba-



Liu Jianzhong Photo by Shan Jinliang

bly won't fall in the short term, but the 2003 overall film box office is expected to cap one billion yuan with more marketing promotion."

Gao Jun, director of the advertising department of Beijing Xinyinglian Film, the country's second largest theater chain, said the breaking of the monopoly would enhance the service attitude of the film distributors, but he said that only two companies was not enough to stir up competition to benefit theaters and moviegoers.



Chinese Mobiles Head for Overseas

By Tony Shaw

On May 31, Chinese handset maker Kejian made its debut in stores in Hong Kong and Macao and added itself to the trend of Chinese domestic handset brands heading for the overseas market. Last week, another emerging handset producer, Soutec, signed a sales contract with an unnamed European telecom operator for 300,000 units, the largest-ever overseas order for a Chinese handset maker.

Last year, Chinese handset producers came to feel the impact of fierce competition among foreign and domestic companies in the industry, so exports were seen as a new avenue. Bird,

the No.1 domestic handset maker in China in 2002, was the frontrunner with exports of 200,000 mobile phones to Europe last year.

It looks like 2003 will be an even more competitive year. The Ministry of Information Industry predicts the production capacity of Chinese handsets will surpass 230 to 250 million in 2003. Unfortunately, demand is estimated at only 170 million units.

Kejian raised its reputation in Europe, Southeast Asia and Hong Kong by sponsoring English football club Everton and sending over two Chinese football players to the team as part of the deal in 2002.

Kejian spokesman Lin Bingsen told the press on May 29 the company would sell its products in collaboration with overseas telecom operators such as Hutchison Telecom, CSL and Smartone, and that the first batch of overseas sales would be in Hong Kong and Macao. Haier began to sell its handsets in Singapore last month. Soutec recently announced it would cooperate with world No.3 telecom operator Primus Telecommunications to sell its products.

Soutec handsets are among the very few self-developed handsets among the current Chinese handset exporters.

Out of the 30 or more handset

producers in China, only five could effectively export their products, as the others would not be able to make use of their price advantage since they are basically producing localized foreign brand phones, says Soutec president Chen Zhen. Only self-developed handsets could have a competitive edge in the international market, he says.

In the first quarter this year, Chinese handsets outsold those produced by overseas brands for the first time, but industry experts attribute this merely to low prices and localization strategy, rather than core technology.

A New Dawn for Internet Cafes

By Shan Jinliang

China Unicom, the country's No.2 wireless telecom operator has begun a big push into the Internet cafe market, after receiving approval from the Ministry of Culture on May 15.

Unicom is the first telecom company to enter the industry, but other telecom operators like China Mobile and Netcom have also applied to open Internet cafe chains throughout the country after they were given local licenses to open Internet cafes.

Unicom's big plan came after its branch in Shandong Province made a success of its Internet cafes last year, as well as there being positive signals from last year that the government was ready to promote the Internet industry. The ministry told the press last week that it would develop 80 percent of the national Internet cafes into chains in three years in a national campaign starting from this year.

Seeing the profitable prospects, Shandong Unicom first came out with the idea to develop Internet cafes both for profit and for promoting telecom services early last year. Local subsidiaries established 20 Internet cafes in the province in 2002.

Then Unicom vowed to clone the Shandong suc-

cess in other provinces while applying for a national license to operate all its Internet cafes under one name: Internet Plaza. After the approval, China Unicom announced it would establish 700 Internet cafes in China. Chen Huoming, of Unicom's Internet and E-commerce Department, said last Friday that these cafes could offer a better price and a fast Internet connection service since all the bars could use Unicom's broadband network.

Apart from profitability, Internet cafes are seen by telecom operators as a good way to publicize new telecom technologies and services like voice telephone, video conferencing and online games based on broadband.

With policy support from the ministry, a few domestic companies such as China Cyber Entertainment Company, the National Library and Great Wall Broadband have begun to open Internet cafe chains nationwide.

China Cyber Entertainment marketing manager Fu Ying told *Beijing Today* that since the chain Internet cafes mostly serve local neighborhoods, and Internet service and telecom price would not be that different, a comprehensive service such as long-distance education, online games and food and beverage supply would be a decisive factor for the chains to win consumers.

Guangdong Slashes Telecom Price

By Shan Jinliang

From yesterday, local and long-distance calls made by China Mobile Guangdong's Shenzhouxing Prepaid card users have been cut by 30 and 70 percent respectively to 0.39 yuan per minute. Shenzhouxing is the last service of China's dual telecom operators China Unicom and Mobile to see a price fall, following a series of moves to counter pressure from PHS (Personal Handy-access System) in the province.

PHS was developed by China Telecom, China's No.1 fixed-line operator, to seize the market from Guangdong Unicom, China Unicom's Guangdong branch. Guangdong is seen as the front line in China's telecom competition, and has seen sharp cuts in wireless telecom fees since PHS was introduced in April.

With a prepaid call fee in the telecom card, Shenzhouxing users are regarded as low-end consumers with few calls per month. PHS targets exactly the same group of users, so China Mobile has initiated a preferential policy to secure its client base.

The one-month price cut from June 5 to July 4 on Shenzhouxing service allows its users to call a city and long-distance phone for 0.39 yuan per minute.

On May 28, Guangdong PHS operator Guangdong Telecom announced it had reached its target for the first month with 110,000 new PHS users.

Tom Still Chasing CETV

By Shan Jinliang

Multimedia company Tom.com, owned by Hong Kong mogul Li Ka-shing, told *Beijing Today* Wednesday that its efforts to purchase China Entertainment Television (CETV) were proceeding as planned.

The purchase has been talked up by local media since March, partly because it was Tom's latest effort to enter China's television industry following its failure to purchase Asia Television and Phoenix last year.

In an official statement on Tuesday, Tom said it had been holding negotiations with CETV's owners, Turner Broadcasting System Asia-Pacific, a subsidiary of AOL Timer Warner. Tom said it would need to get approval from its shareholders before reaching a final agreement with AOL Timer Warner. AOL declined to comment on the talks, but said it had "always been looking at strategic partnerships" for CETV.

Sources from Hong Kong's stock market said Tom will pay US\$130 to \$150 million for a controlling stake in CETV. Gao Fei, a domestic IT website analyst with ZDNet China, said uncertainty still remained in the deal although it appeared to be nearing completion.

CETV is a Chinese-speaking channel with a reach into Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong Province. It was the first overseas satellite TV station to be granted landing rights in China in October 2001. Unfortunately, it's been losing \$16 million a year since AOL Timer Warner bought an 85 percent stake in it in 2000. Currently, CETV has a two percent or smaller share of the Chinese television market, according to a recent AC Nielsen survey.

Debt-strapped AOL covets China's vast but restricted television market, but analysts said the US media giant may now be looking to sell its stake in CETV as it comes under pressure to offload ventures that are losing money or show no profit prospects in the near term.

Of around 30 overseas TV stations that are now available in China, only Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV is making a profit thanks to its audience of 40 million Chinese families in a dozen inland cities. Zhao Xiaobing, a Beijing-based media analyst, said the reason for Phoenix's success is partly its close ties with the central government. Overseas media companies such as Reuters have suggested that Li's top contacts in Beijing could help CETV to reach a billion-plus mainland viewers.

Still Digging Up the Rich

By Shan Jinliang

Rupert Hoogewerf, 33, is still on the trail of China's richest people, only now it's *Euromoney* magazine that's paying him to name the top dogs instead of *Forbes*.

Hoogewerf signed an agreement on Tuesday with *Euromoney*, a leading European finance magazine, to compile a new rich list, a task he had performed for US finance magazine *Forbes* since 1999.

Forbes ditched Hoogewerf in January after the magazine established its China office in Shanghai and sent over its own chief China representative Russell Flannery to compile the next rich list. *Forbes* said Hoogewerf had breached his contract with them by printing a series of books using their stories and using the *Forbes* name to make money for himself.

After his dismissal, Hoogewerf contacted a few international media companies, including *Euromoney*, which is known for its international banks list. The fact that these have included Chinese state-owned banks like the Bank of Industry of Commerce has won the magazine a relatively high reputation in China.

Hoogewerf has just begun his work on the list for *Euromoney*. It is due out this fall, around the same time as *Forbes*'s Chinese rich list, which will be released in September. *Yangcheng Evening News* said on Tuesday the two magazines would try to release their results earlier to steal a march on the other.



Rupert Hoogewerf

Photos by Photocom

Boeing Sets New Record

By Zhang Xiaoxia

The Boeing 777-300ER (Extended Range), the newest in the 777 family, has set a maximum-takeoff weight record of 351,300 kilograms at Edwards air force base in California.

Lars Andersen, Boeing 777 Longer Range program manager, and Frank Santoni, Boeing 777 Chief Test Pilot, affirmed the heaviest takeoff ever for a twin-engine airplane in an interview with *Beijing Today*.

The ground shaking event took place on May 19 during US Federal Aviation Administration certification testing. Because the airplane's takeoff weight exceeded the planned 759,600-pound certification weight, restrictions were applied to the airplane's center of gravity locations. Ground and air maneuvers were monitored during takeoff, flight and landing to ensure airplane structural loads were not excessive.

"The higher-than-normal takeoff weight allowed us to gather data for a number of takeoff conditions without refueling," said Lars Andersen. The 777-300ER takeoff broke a record held by the 777-300. That airplane took off weighing 678,400 pounds during flight testing in 1997. Two 777-300ER airplanes are currently being put through 1,600 hours of flight-testing.



"I will reiterate our strong dollar policy and I will listen to their (G8) plans and initiatives to reform their economies," US President George W. Bush said on Thursday.

Bush Still Backs Strong Dollar

Evian, France, June 2 (AFP) – US President George W. Bush assured world leaders he was committed to a strong dollar at a Group of Eight summit here that sent out optimistic signals on prospects for recovery in the

AFP Photo

global economy.

With the recent weakening of the dollar, Bush told his counterparts that the US had not abandoned its preference for a strong national currency, saying he would "stick to his policy of the strong dollar."

But Bush also made it clear that Washington would not inter-

vene to shore up the dollar, which has fallen by 20 percent against the euro in recent months.

The slide in the greenback and the corresponding rise in the euro and the yen have unsettled authorities in the 12-nation euro zone and Japan, who see the trend as a threat to exports and ultimately to an eco-

nomie recovery.

Bush's comments to the summit, as well as those made over the weekend ahead of the gathering, appeared aimed at offsetting hints by US Treasury Secretary John Snow that the United States - anxious to boost exports - was not unhappy with the fall in the dollar.

Long: Slide Won't Last Too Long

In the long-term, I believe the US cannot give up the strong dollar stance.

The "strong dollar" policy was initiated in 1995 by then US treasury secretary Robert E. Rubin, and was supported by the dot.com boom. The policy stimulated a huge inflow of foreign capital to the US and maintained a five-year-long economic expansion. But when the dot.com bubble burst,

the "strong dollar" policy's negative impact emerged, increasing America's trade deficit to \$435.2 billion and budget deficit to \$157.8 billion in 2002.

A devalued dollar can bring stimulus and benefit to US exports. But in an economically globalized world, capital flow is far more important than trade deficit. A strong dollar can attract capital inflow to the US.

Currency devaluation is re-

ceiving more and more denunciations in the World Trade Organization because most of the member countries complain it is selfish and unfair. A country, particularly a big and "responsible" country like the US cannot stimulate its economic growth by currency policy alone.

The US is using the weakened dollar to press the EU and Japan for further economic structural reforms and open up their domestic markets.

But the drop in the dollar will not have much impact on

the EU, as 65 percent of its trade is between member countries, using euros. On the contrary, a strong euro is needed to build up a strong world currency image for the euro, particularly when it has experienced two years' depreciation since it was introduced at the beginning of 2001.

Japan is more sensitive as it is a giant exporter and has huge investment in the US.

– Long Yongtu, general secretary of the Bo'ao Forum for Asia in an interview with CCTV on June 2



Long Yongtu: weak dollar won't last too long Photo by Photocom

New US Media Rules Face Challenges

Washington, June 3 (AP) – Newly relaxed rules governing ownership of newspapers and TV and radio stations face a gauntlet of challenges in the courts and in Congress.

The eased restrictions approved by the Republican controlled Federal Communications Commission (FCC) this week allow companies to own television stations reaching nearly half the nation's viewers and to own newspapers and TV and radio stations in the same city.

Many media companies wanted eased regulations, saying decades-old restrictions hindered their ability to grow and compete in a market changed by cable TV, satellite broadcasts and the Internet.

Critics said that despite Monday's 3-2 vote, they would keep fighting changes they say could put a few giant companies in control of what most people see, hear and read.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell said after the vote that the rules needed an overhaul so they wouldn't be swept away by lawsuits, which could lead to there being no restrictions on media companies. Many of the agency's past attempts to update its ownership rules were thrown out by court decisions.

Several lawmakers have proposed legislation to counter the changed rules, particularly one that now permits a single company to own TV stations that reach 45 percent of US households, up from 35 percent.

"There clearly now is going to be an orgy of mergers and acquisitions," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, a member of the Senate Commerce Committee. He called the FCC's decision "dumb and dangerous."

The commission's Democrats, Jonathan Adelstein



Protestors are condemning the amendment approved by the Senate committee allowing wider entry to the media industry by industrial investment.

Xinhua Photo

and Michael Copps, said the changes give too much power to media giants. Copps said the decisions were flawed and legally vulnerable. (David Ho)

Analysts' Take:

Negative impact and side effects of capital inflow liberalization need to be found

The last amendment to the US media industry was made in 1996, allowing financial resources from other sectors to enter the industry, for instance General Motors' investment in the American Broadcast Corporation.

Competition has prevented any monopolization of voices and opinions thus far. Also, sufficient investment has protected the media from becoming too reli-

ant on advertisers.

China's changing media needs clear rules and regulations

China's media industry is owned by the state. But things are changing rapidly. The government is considering contracting out media operational rights to private and overseas investors. In fact, both private and overseas investment has already entered the media industry. But a lack of clear rules and regulations is forcing investors to focus on short-term profits and is of no good to the long-term and healthy development of the industry.

– Yu Guoming, professor and director of the Public Opinion Research Institute, People's University of China

ECB to Cut Rate as Euro-zone Inflation Slows

Frankfurt, June 3 (AFP) – The cut in euro-zone interest rates that politicians and the financial markets have long been clamoring for appeared to be all but a done deal after European Central Bank chief Wim Duisenberg indicated that falling inflation in the region opened up room for such a move.

Duisenberg said that inflationary pressures in the euro area "have declined significantly over recent months" and that "will be reflected in our deliberations on monetary policy."

The ECB has held the rate steady at 2.5 percent since the beginning of March and the overwhelming majority of economists believe the bank will cut rates by a further half-point.

Microsoft Pays AOL Time Warner To Settle Antitrust Lawsuit

June 2 (TechWeb.com) – Microsoft agreed to pay AOL Time Warner \$750 million to settle AOL Time Warner's private monopoly lawsuit against Microsoft. The two companies also agreed to cooperate on long-term digital media initiatives.

AOL Time Warner's America Online unit filed the lawsuit against Microsoft in January, 2002, on behalf of its Netscape Communications subsidiary, charging that Microsoft unlawfully used its monopoly power to take over the browser market.

Microsoft and AOL Time Warner agreed to a royalty-free seven-year license of Microsoft's browsing technology and the two companies will work to ensure that their products interoperate, the companies said in a joint statement.

Car Safety Experts Push for New Device

Washington, June 4 (USA Today) – The US National Transportation Safety Board heard evidence Thursday that a promising auto safety feature might prevent sport-utility vehicle rollovers.

NTSB crash investigators will recommend that the board encourage widespread installation of the device – called stability control – in new cars and trucks.

The system senses when a driver is about to lose control of a vehicle, and it applies brakes to certain wheels. That helps the driver maintain or regain control. (Jayne O'Donnell)

FedEx to Cut 14,000 Jobs

Memphis, Tenn., June 3 (AP) – FedEx Corp. announced plans to trim up to 14,000 jobs from its domestic express service by offering voluntary severance packages and early retirement in an attempt to cut long-term costs.

With 116,000 workers nationwide, FedEx Express has the world's biggest cargo airline and is the largest operating unit of FedEx Corp., which also owns FedEx Ground and FedEx Freight.

The company said it would offer early retirement and voluntary severance programs and expects the job reductions to produce annual operating savings of \$150 million to \$190 million by 2005. (Woody Baird)

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The water level at Three Gorges Reservoir reaches 118 meters.

Xinhua Photo

Three Gorges Dam Starts Storing Water

By Sun Ming

China's Three Gorges Project's reservoir started storing water from 9 am on Sunday, a milestone in the construction of China's largest water control project.

The water level of the reservoir on the Yangtze, the longest river in China, will rise by four to five meters daily and is expected to reach an altitude of 135 meters from the previous 78 meters by June 15, according to the China Yangtze Three Gorges Project Development Corporation (CYTGPDPC).

By then, a huge 600-kilometer-long reservoir will have emerged between the area of Sandouping in central Hubei Province where the dam is located and Chongqing Municipality on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River.

"With the sluice gates closing down and the water level in the reservoir rising steadily, we'll see the initial benefits of the project soon," Zheng Shouren, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering told CCTV which broadcast live the process of the sluice gate closing on Sunday. "After ten years' building, the Three Gorges project finally begins to pay dividends this year, playing an important part in power generation, navigation and water diversion."

Seventy percent of the project completed

The Three Gorges Project has long been a controversial issue in China because of its high cost, large-scale relocation of inhabitants, and devastating effect on landscape and relics. It was approved and launched in 1993 and will be completed in 2009, with an estimated total investment of 180 billion yuan (US \$21.8 billion).

The project has three major functions: flood control, power generation and improved navigation. It has been divided into three stages. The preparatory and first-phase project spanned five years from 1993-1997, whose completion was signaled by the damming of the Yangtze River on November 8, 1997.

The second phase, running from 1998 to the end of 2003, features storing of the reservoir's water, the operation of the first group of generating units, and the passage of ships through the permanent sluice gate. The third phase is planned from 2004 to 2009, when the water level is expected to reach an altitude of 175 meters and all 26 generators will be able to generate power.

"Up to now, around 70 percent of the Three Gorges Project has been completed," said Lu Youmei, general manager of CYTGPDPC. "The project will play a pivotal role in utilizing and controlling the Yangtze River."

Hydropower-generating units to operate

According to CYTGPDPC, two hydropower-generating units will begin operation in August and another two will start in October. By the end of this year, a total of 5.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity will be produced from the four generating units and transferred to China's eastern and central regions, where power supply is insufficient. Shanghai is expected to be the first beneficiary of the Three Gorges Project.

"In the coming six years, four new generator units will be installed and put into operation at the Three Gorges dam. It's just like building a new Gezhouba power station each year," said Lu. Not

far from the Three Gorges dam, Gezhouba used to be the largest hydropower project on the Yangtze with an annual generating capacity of 14 billion kwh.

According to the company, the Three Gorges Hydropower Plant will play a vital role in the west-to-east power transfer project. When completed in 2009, Three Gorges Project's reservoir will hold 39.3 billion cubic meters of water and 26 power-generating units with a combined capacity of 18.2 million kwh will be operational.

By then, major Chinese cities and industrial bases in more than 20 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities will benefit from the electricity generated at the Three Gorges.

The Three Gorges Project will be the world's biggest hydropower plant in terms of both total installed capacity and annual average power generation volume.

Navigation improved

Navigation on the Yangtze will resume on June 16 after a suspension of 67 days. As the Yangtze water level rises, navigation conditions on the river will also improve, with protruding reefs and rocks submerged and dangerous torrents and swirls replaced by quiet and slow flows.

"When the water level goes up to 135 meters, navigation on the gorge waterway will improve a lot," said Zhang Chaoran, chief engineer with CYTGPDPC. "The drastic rise of the water level will widen the channel, making the risky river section between Yichang and Chongqing far easier to navigate."

According to surveys and calculations, when the water level rises further to 175 meters in 2009, 10,000-ton ships will be able to go to Chongqing from Shanghai directly and smoothly, cutting shipping costs by more than 30 percent.

Moreover, with the Three Gorges reservoir playing the role of a "water flow adjuster", shipping difficulties on the river's middle and lower reaches during low water seasons will also be largely overcome.

Flood control needs time

"Power generation will be realized this year, but the dam won't be able to play an effective role in flood control until 2009," said Liu Ning, an engineer from the Hydropower Department of CYTGPDPC.

Among the three main functions of Three Gorges Project, flood control is probably the most important. To effectively block and control floodwater flowing down from the upper reaches of the Yangtze has been a long-cherished dream in China. It also turned out to be the greatest motivation for the Chinese government to begin constructing the Three Gorges Project in 1993.

The 193-kilometer-long Three Gorges, consisting of Qutang Gorge, Wuxia Gorge and Xiling Gorge, is an area famed for steep terrain and picturesque landscape. But at the same time, local residents have had to cope with regular, devastating floods.

According to historic records, there have been major floods around the Yangtze every ten years on average for the last two thousand years.

The frequent flooding mainly resulted from the fact that in high water seasons, water flowing down the upper reaches of the river often far exceeded the storage and discharge capacity of

the river's middle and lower reaches.

Once the Three Gorges reservoir is in place, the massive water flow from the upper reaches of the Yangtze can be effectively held back thanks to the enormous storage capacity of the reservoir.

Zheng Shouren, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, predicted that when the water level rises to 175 meters in the reservoir in 2009, its storage capacity would reach 22.15 billion cubic meters.

"When the reservoir plays its role fully in 2009, around 15 million people on the lower reaches of the Yangtze River will be markedly less threatened by floods," said Zheng.

Local inhabitants relocated

According to CYTGPDPC, 632 square kilometers of land will be submerged by the time the massive project is completed in six years. This involves the relocation of over one million people in all by 2009; so far, over 720,000 have been resettled.

Chongqing Relocation Department said on Tuesday that China would move another 25,000 local farmers out of the Three Gorges Project area within the next two years.

They will be moved to east China's Shanghai municipality, Shandong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi and Fujian provinces, south China's Guangdong province, central Hubei and Hunan provinces and southwestern Sichuan province, all places with previous experience of receiving displaced migrants.

"Experts predict that the Three Gorges Project will generate not only 'the difficult task' of relocating over one million people, but also opportunities and development momentum for the relocated residents," said Xinhua on Wednesday.

Relics saved

With the filling of the Three Gorges Reservoir, cultural relics in the area must either be moved or submerged.

There are a number of prehistoric cultural relics dating back to the Old Stone Age, more than two million years ago, cultural sites of ancient dynasties from the Xia Dynasty (21st Century BC to 16th Century BC) to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

"More than 7,000 archeological experts, academics and technicians from across the country are racing against time to protect the centuries-old legacy of their ancestors. Many advanced modern technologies have been introduced to the prospecting and excavation, including remote sensing, ground-penetrating radar and global positioning technologies," said Xinhua News on Saturday.

"It is unprecedented in China's history of cultural relics salvation," said Qiao Liang, who is one of the policymakers organizing the cultural relics rescue program. "The excavation of the cultural relics buried below the 135-meter water level has been completed on schedule."

"Gao Chao, deputy director of the Yichang municipal tourism administrative bureau, said that the filling of the Three Gorges Reservoir will obviously remove the original picturesque landscape of the magnificent three gorges. But it will offer an interesting new scenic site for tourists," said Xinhua on Sunday.

Who Killed Sun? (cont'd)

By Ivy Zhang

At a one-day court hearing in Guangzhou yesterday, thirteen suspects were tried for involvement in a beating which led to the death of Sun Zhigang, a man arrested on March 17 for failing to provide identification. Sun died in hospital three days after his arrest. Suspicion had initially fallen on the police who arrested Sun, but the ensuing official enquiry found that Sun had been beaten by eight roommates in the hospital. The suspects are due to be sentenced at Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court.

Meanwhile, some employees of police and health care departments involved in the case were tried at the Tianhe District People's Court and Baiyun District People's Court yesterday, according to *Chengdu Business News* report.

Southern Metropolitan Daily reports that Lin Peikun, deputy director of Guangzhou Public Security Bureau, Lu Yande, deputy director of Guangzhou Health Care Bureau and Tang Qichang, deputy director of Guangzhou Civil Affairs Bureau have received an administrative reprimand.

A total of 20 staff members of the police, health care authorities and civil affairs administration have been punished, being fired, removed from their post or deprived of their Communist Party membership.



The story was first reported in Beijing Today four weeks ago.

Sun, a 27-year-old university graduate and a designer at Guangzhou Daqi Clothes-making Company, was arrested and taken to Huangcunjie police station because he failed to produce his identification card or any other certificates on the night of March 17. The next day he was sent to Guangzhou collecting post to be sent back to his hometown but later that day he was taken to the Health Center of the collecting post. He died at the health center three days after his arrest and the autopsy showed that a severe beating was the cause of death.

In the wake of Sun's death, Guangzhou-based *Southern Metropolitan Daily* reported this case, which attracted attention from the central and provincial government. A special investigation team, made up of the police, civil affairs officials and health care authorities was formed to look into the case.

Their investigation, according to *Guangzhou Daily*, found that Sun had been beaten by his roommates at the health center between 1:13 and 1:30 am on March 20. He died at 10:20 am the same day.

By May 12, thirteen suspects, including the eight who beat Sun and five workers at the health center who apparently "instigated the beating", according to the investigation, had been arrested.

Also arrested were Li Yaohui, police officer at Huangcunjie police station (where Sun had been taken after his arrest), Peng Hongjun, doctor and head of the health center of the collecting post, and Zeng Weilin, a nurse on duty at the health center. These three face charges of dereliction of duty.

"I didn't expect this case to be tried at court so soon," a lawyer who is close to the case but did not want to be identified told *Beijing Today* this week. "It should have been heard in July or August according to normal procedures. Maybe the authorities wanted to settle the case as soon as possible and give an answer to the public."

The lawyer said Sun's family had not received any details of the investigation so far. Nor were they allowed to view the security videotape taken at the hospital on the night of the alleged beating. The family's attention is focused on compensation for the time being.

Led by the Guangzhou municipal gov-

ernment, a follow-up team was formed in early May with 10 members from the police, civil affairs and health care authorities to take care of cremation and state compensation issues. These three authorities will share the payment of compensation based on their individual responsibilities.

Sun was cremated on May 18. Compensation below a limit of one million yuan is now being discussed.

"After the compensation issue is settled, the family might strongly demand to view the videotape and the investigation report," said the lawyer.

The lawyer said Sun's family were "comparatively satisfied" with the results so far. Since May 11, Sun's parents, brother and uncle have been staying in Huangjindun Hotel, paid for by the follow-up team, with two medical workers assigned to take care of Sun's parents.

"In the past, Sun's family lived in really bad conditions," said the lawyer. "Now they feel much better."

"I have my worries, though," said the lawyer. "I know some inside information. This case has been exposed and the government has lost face." The lawyer said he suspected a cover-up.

The case has aroused controversy nationwide, and will not be properly closed even after sentencing tomorrow, as legal experts are calling for a special review of the case. They have called on the National People's Congress standing committee, the highest authority in China, to organize a special investigation into Sun's case as well as into the nation's collecting system for sending illegal migrants back home.

On May 16, three young law doctorate degree holders made the appeal. One week later on May 23, another five law experts added their voices.

The proposal put forward by the legal experts states that many doubtful points still exist in Sun's case. For instance, the possibility of Sun having been beaten at the Huangcunjie police station or the collecting post was officially denied before the investigation had properly begun. Also, as the police were among the suspects in the fatal beating, the legal experts say they shouldn't have been involved in the investigation. In fact, the police were closely involved with it.

"Many people think the investigation result is not convincing," says the experts' proposal. "More importantly, Sun's case is not unusual. People's concern and anger towards this case reflects their worries and dissatisfaction with the entire collecting system."

The experts have requested the standing committee of the National People's Congress to form a special commission and conduct an independent and fair investigation into Sun's death, how the case was handled and how the collecting system is currently being implemented.

Beijing Today interviewed He Weifang, law professor at Beijing University and the leader of the group of law experts, this Wednesday.

"No such commission has ever been set up before," he said. "But the appeal is worthwhile. At least, we can get our voices across," he added.

A total of 100,000 people are collected and sent back to their hometowns from Guangdong every year, according to Guangdong collecting post. There are more than 700 collecting posts across the nation.

The current collecting system is based on Collecting and Repatriating Methods for Urban Wanderers and Beggars promulgated by the State Council in 1982.

The regulations are meant to "relieve, educate and relocate the wanderers and beggars so as to maintain social order and solidarity."

However, there are two major problems in implementing the regulations: they restrict people's freedom; also their reach is too great, so political factors can sometimes come into it.

"The biggest problem is that the regulations sometimes run contrary to the constitution and other laws, criminal law for instance," said Professor He.

Professor He said the collecting system is over-reaching and has too often been used for political purposes over the past 20 years. For instance, when it comes to state ceremonies or important meetings, it is easy to restrict the freedom of those who come in from outside Beijing or those "who are thought to have negative influence on the nation's appearance or its political life." These people are simply picked up, or "collected", and then sent home or consigned to forced labor.

Professor He said the collecting system should be cancelled. But the nation still has the responsibility to provide relief to those who can't afford food or a living.

"The most important thing is that human freedom should not be restricted. People should be free to come and go as they want. But I'm not sure the government wants to allow that," he said.



Liu leads his neighbors in their routine Kong Zhu exercise, at 6:30 pm every evening.
Photos by Txtpuma

Captain Kong Zhu

By Zhang Huan

Kong Zhu might seem like a quaint pastime these days, but it still has a fanatical following. For 66-year-old Liu Zhenyu, it's a way of life. The game was invented in China somewhere between the 4th and 3rd millennium B.C. and was later brought to Europe where it's known as Diabolo. Basically, Kong Zhu consists of two hollow domes and an axle, which is whirled and tossed on a string tied to two sticks held one in each hand. Kong Zhu in Chinese means "hollow bamboo" because it's made out of bamboo with openings on the sides that create a

whistling sound when spinning.

These days it's more popular with middle-aged and old people than younger generations. In parks, old people get together to spin the wheel and talk about trying different Kong Zhu tricks. For them, Kong Zhu is not only a game that can bring a lot of enjoyment, but also a way to live a healthy life. Many of them would like to spread the traditional game to more people. Liu Zhenyu is one of them.



Xiang Huang, an ancient kind of Kong Zhu in Liu's collection, discovered during a trip to Chengdu

From an early age

Liu Zhenyu is a retired engineer. Born in Beijing, he began playing Kong Zhu at seven years old. "Kong Zhu was a popular folk game during my childhood. I watched my father doing it and I liked it very much," says Liu. His father bought him his first Kong Zhu set when he was seven and after that, for every Spring Festival, he would get two or three Kong Zhu as gifts.

During the Cultural Revolution, Kong

Zhu was listed as one of the forbidden pastimes redolent of old China. But for lovers of the game like Liu Zhenyu, nothing could stop them. "I remember we used a teakettle lid or even a cup lid to replace Kong Zhu. And to keep it spinning on the string took even more skill and brought us more fun."

It was not until the 1980s that Liu found Kong Zhu on the market again. "I found a Kong Zhu set in a Spring Festival temple fair, and all the good memories about playing it came back." Liu immediately bought one and found that his skill was still there. In the following years, Liu began collecting all kinds of Kong Zhu and even started designing them himself.

Since retiring, he spends all his spare time in playing and collecting Kong Zhu. He also teaches people in his neighborhood how to play. Liu believes Kong Zhu is part of Chinese folk culture and that it is good for the health as well.

Liu has become something of a local celebrity in his neighborhood and now has many students, including foreigners. He's even been asked to perform for activities and shows. When asked if he was the most skillful Kong Zhu player, Liu promptly shook his head. "There is always someone better than me, such as those people from acrobatic troupes. But among the people who take Kong Zhu as a hobby, I am perhaps the most devoted."

Home becomes Kong Zhu museum

These days, Liu Zhenyu's home resembles a museum for Kong Zhu. Various parts hang on the wall and there are many Kong Zhu sets of different size, color, material and shape.

Some were bought by Liu himself and some were given to him by other Kong Zhu fans, while some were designed by himself and then made by a factory.

In Liu's collection, the biggest Kong Zhu weighs 11 kg while the smallest is the size of a button.

Besides the traditional bamboo variety, Liu has also designed and collected Kong Zhu made from other materials such as plastic, rubber and metal. Some of them are even designed with advanced technology. For example, a traditional Kong Zhu can only create a whistling sound, but a specially designed one can create several different whistling sounds or even pieces



Liu displays a number of commemorative Kong Zhu sets he designed for big events, including a new one for the SARS crisis.

of music.

On his visits to other provinces to give Kong Zhu performances, Liu has also kept an eye out for distinctive local versions. One trip provided him with one of the most valuable Kong Zhu sets in his collection: Xiang Huang, an ancient name for a special kind of Kong Zhu. Liu found it during a trip to Chengdu. One day after his performance when he was wandering in alleys looking around for local Kong Zhu, he saw an old man playing one with his grandchild. It immediately attracted Liu's attention as it was different from the ones in North China. It looked more like a dumbbell than a composition of two domes and was made of wood. Liu asked the old man if he would sell him the Kong Zhu. The old man refused but said he was willing to give it to him. Liu gave the old man 20 yuan to buy some sweets for his grandchild and got the valuable Xiang Huang.

In Liu's eyes, his Kong Zhu are not only toys to play with but also works of art. He recently began to design commemorative Kong Zhu for big events, such as Beijing's success in the 2008 Olympic bid, the 21st Universiade and even the current SARS crisis.

Unfortunately, as his collections become more and more extensive, Liu is running out of room to display them at home. So he's hoping to find a partner with whom to build up a proper Kong Zhu museum.

Spreading the word

Through Kong Zhu, Liu has made a lot of new friends. Many

people have got to know him through his performances and interviews on TV and then called him to learn from him or asked to buy Kong Zhu.

Gao Yizheng, Liu's wife is also a Kong Zhu lover and she supports Liu's activities. "We often mail Kong Zhu to people from other provinces," Gao says. "Sometimes, enthusiasts from outside Beijing come to visit us and Liu will meet them at the railway station and I will organize hotel rooms. We are both retired now, so we regard Kong Zhu as our work," says Gao.

Liu and Gao are both very healthy, which they attribute to playing Kong Zhu. The hobby has also been fulfilling in other ways. "We believe we are performing a service for society by spreading this traditional game," said Liu.

Kong Zhu has also become popular during the SARS crisis, as a simple way of getting exercise. "You don't need a large space or good weather for it. It is a convenient but healthy game, suitable for people of all ages," Liu says. "Many of my friends have recovered from diseases after taking up playing Kong Zhu, and one successfully lost 15 kg in weight," said Liu.

Liu is very happy that more and more people seem to be taking up this traditional pastime. Now, he says he has two objectives. One is for there to be a Kong Zhu performance at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics, and the other is to introduce the game to more foreign countries.





Inscribed stone tablet

Discovery Sheds Light on Marco Polo Bridge

By Iris Miao

Construction work on the Fifth Ring Road near Lugou Qiao, otherwise known as Marco Polo Bridge, has led to the recent unearthing of a quantity of stone artifacts and architectural components, among which an inscribed stone tablet helps clarify an historical detail concerning the reconstruction of the bridge in 1498.

The relics, which cover a time span from the Liao Dynasty (916-1125) to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), were found scattered through an area 100 meters long, up to a depth of eight meters, in the vicinity of Lugou Bridge in the southwest of Beijing.

They include a *jingchuang*,

a stone pillar with Buddhist inscriptions, on which the text remains clearly discernible. There are also two stone human figures, three stone animals and a pair of guardian warriors, all finely and vividly carved, as well as various stone architectural components, such as carved columns, frames and thresholds.

"The most precious among



Jingchuang, a stone pillar with Buddhist inscriptions.
Photos provided by Beijing Cultural Relics Research Institute

these is the remnant of a stone tablet inscribed with an article about the reconstruction of Lugou Bridge in May, 1498," Zhu Zhigang, a research director at the Beijing Cultural Relics Research Institute, told *Beijing Today*. "The article confirms records in the History of the Ming Dynasty."

The inscription also mentions a "three-gate gate tower east of the bridge." A Yuan Dynasty history book records that the gate tower was built in 1355, and it is generally assumed that it was demolished in the late Ming Dynasty when the walled town of Wanping was built. However a record in the History of the Qing Dynasty suggests that the gate tower was actually outside Xizhimen, over five kilometers north of the bridge. With the

discovery of the tablet, the dispute can at last be settled.

The stone relics appear to have suffered extensive damage. According to Zhu Zhigang, they were dismantled and moved from elsewhere to the current site where they were to be used for repairing the bank of the Yongding River and Lugou Bridge.

Lugou Bridge is the oldest stone arched bridge in Beijing. First built in 1189, it is 266.5 meters long, 7.5 meters wide and has 11 culverts. There are 140 balustrade posts on the two sides of the bridge, and on top of each of post sits a stone lion in various poses. In *The Travels of Marco Polo*, Lugou Bridge is described as the "best and the most unique" bridge in the world, which is why it is known as the Marco Polo Bridge in English.

Ming Dynasty Graves Unearthed

By Xiao Rong

Excavation began Saturday on a group of newly discovered mausoleums in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. The identity of the occupant of the tomb group is still in dispute.

Some archaeologists believe the occupant was a eunuch of the Ming Dynasty, based on unearthed relics and an epigraph, while a couplet inscribed on the gate of one of the tombs has led others to suggest the owner might have been a high ranking official.

The tomb, in which some precious jade and porcelain articles were found, marks another significant finding following the recent excavation of a Ming Dynasty eunuch's grave in Wukuaishi, Chengdu.

Found in a construction site at Hongpailou, Chengdu, the tomb group consists of six separate mausoleums. Upon excavation, the gate of each one was found to have been blocked with large stones. Outside the gates there are flagstone walls engraved with patterns of flying dragons.

Each of the six tombs has an antechamber and a coffin chamber, some also feature middle and back chambers.

All except the No. 3 tomb have been robbed, though there are signs of an attempt to prize open its gates, according to experts from the archaeological team charged with excavating the site.

Excavation has been hampered by rain and also the condition of the tomb. Archaeologists had to wear gas masks as protection



Detail of design on the wall of the tomb

against the poisonous fumes in the tomb.

On removing a two-ton slab from in front of the tomb gate, archaeologists were astonished to find nine ancient

sacrificial tools placed in order on a two-meter dark-red table. There were even remains of ash in an incense burner.

The scene was video taped by Rong Yuanda, an archaeologist with the Chengdu Archaeological Institute, who judged the graves to date to the Jiaping period (around 1522) of the Ming Dynasty. He described the findings as unusual in the modern archaeological history of Chengdu.

Inside the rotten coffin of the No. 3 tomb, dozens of jade, agate and pearls were found, indicating the occupant was a noble. A porcelain jar with a diameter of about 45 centimeters was placed on the table of the front chamber of the tomb.

The six mausoleums are ranked chronologically from east to west, suggesting that the tomb complex was built before the owner died.

Some archaeologists hold the view that the grave is that of a eunuch of the Ming Dynasty and might be related to the eunuch graves recently excavated in Wukuaishi.

However, a couplet vowing loyalty to the emperor engraved on the gate of the No. 1 tomb has led others to speculate that the occupant might have been a warrior, rather than a eunuch.

(Sources: Chengdu Daily, Chengdu Evening News)



A worker removes a coffin plank from the tomb.

Photos by Wang Ruobing

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By Yu Shanshan

So far, this summer has not been an easy time to fraternize, but that did not keep a group of artists and friends from holding a party on a weekend in mid-May in the Shangri-La Community, a suburban community northeast of downtown that is home to many artists. The influence of SARS, however, was still felt, as only more than 20 people gathered at the long table placed in the yard in the middle of the artists' lofts, a table that can easily accommodate 40.

"It's the smallest party we've ever held, but still we needed something to light up these boring days," Zhang Baolin, organizer of the party and a close friend of the residents of the Shangri-La Community, told *Beijing Today* after the get-together ended at midnight.

The nearly non-existent social schedule of the past months has left the artists of Shangri-La and elsewhere in Beijing with plenty of time to concentrate on their work and experiment with new forms.

For nearly two months, sculptor Liang Shuo has been working and making toys at home as part of his efforts to create works that will appeal outside of purely artistic circles. In his loft stand two of his earlier works, life-sized sculptures of peasants titled *Fashion Peasants* and *Migrant Workers in the City*, while the other side of the room is lined with over 100 new, small plaster figures in various poses that Liang is planning to make into rattle-drums and other playthings, and then sell at temple fairs or display when the SARS crisis is over.

The soon-to-be toy figurines show Liang's light-hearted, satirical side. "In making these toys, I am searching a 'folk artisan' feeling — really, I'm just playing around," he said.

Painter Tong Zhengang, known for modern-style wash paintings, is also working on new pieces that he hopes will surprise critics and art fans when they debut next year, though they maintain his earlier obsession with human sloth and laziness.

These new portraits are painted as if peering down on the models, most of whom have passive, indolent looks on their faces. The subjects of the paintings are all waitresses at the restaurant run by Red Square Art and Entertainment, where Tong works as art director for the gallery. "[The waitresses] came to my place one night exhausted after work and I just sketched out their natural poses and the looks on their faces," he recalled.

Peripheral objects in the pictures, such as cats, birds and flowers, are meant to continue the laziness theme. "People are very busy and nervous everyday, and taking some time to be lazy can actually make you feel better," Tong said to *Beijing Today*.

Sculptor Wang Shugang, who arrived in the Beijing art community with his German wife Julia two years ago, is continuing to work on his

End to Artistic Quarantine

Artists party and experiment while waiting for recovery



Liang Shuo



Tong Zhengang



Wang Shugang



Zhang Baolin (left), and Wei Gang



Wei Gang's design studio in the Shangri-La Community

Photos by Wang Wei

unique "group presentation" projects, such as his latest sculpture *Special Time*. Inspired by the spring of SARS, the work is a group of bronze sculptures of people wearing large masks.

"I think a group of people with same faces and doing same thing is more striking than a group of people with various faces and poses. That kind of large scale of sameness conveys rhythm," he said. "I want to use that kind of rhythm to show people we have grown to have similar ways of thinking through the proliferation of newspapers, TV and popular culture."

Wei Gang, the "landlord" and head of Shangri-La Culture & Art Company (he founded the Shangri-La Community three years ago and continues to manage rental of space to artists), has used the past quiet months to focus more on promotion than personal creation. From hosting exhibitions to promoting artists and online art exchange (the company

is currently constructing the web platform www.sart.cn), the Shangri-La community and company integrate the creation, production, exhibition and promotion of art.

After SARS is completely under control, said Wei, the company will hold a major design exhibition, planned for July, that will be developed into an influential annual event.

The stars of the show will be around 40 thesis art projects, mostly posters with SARS-inspired themes, by students of the College of Art of Hebei University of Science and Technology.

"I've always wanted this company to have a design exhibition of its own," Wei said to *Beijing Today*. "But, what I want is not merely to pay a lot of money for a lavish party and then have no one ever think again about the artworks after it is over. I hope to push the designs into use by industry, which would also allow us to earn some money from the exhibition someday."

East India Company to Return to Chinese Shores

By Zhang Xiaoxia

A tall ship will soon be plying the seas between Europe and China, laden not with goods for trade, but with representatives and ideas for cultural and economic exchange in the modern world. The craft is the East Indiaman *Götheborg III*, the world's largest wooden ship, which launches today in Göteborg, Sweden.

The King and Queen of Sweden will attend the ceremony for the christening and launch of the vessel, held on Sweden's national day, as will Chinese Ambassador to Sweden Zou Mingrong and Yun Wenjin, China's Consul General in Göteborg, Sweden.

The East Indiaman *Götheborg* is a replica of a merchant vessel that brought tea, silk and porcelain from China to Sweden in the 1740s. The ship will remain in harbor in Sweden until the autumn of 2004, when it will set sail on its epic voyage, first touching Chinese ground at Guangzhou in mid-July 2005. Around one month later, she will arrive in Shanghai, where she will stay until December and then ply for home, stopping in the Hong Kong SAR on the way.

During port calls, the East Indiaman *Götheborg* will be used as a platform for promoting Swedish-Chinese exchange in such fields as trade and investment, culture and technology.

The massive ship is 50 meters long with a breadth of 11 meters, a 47-meter-tall mast and a displacement of 1,150 tons. The East Indiaman *Götheborg III* is being built mainly of oak with methods and materials authentic to 18th century shipbuilding. Some departures from this principle have, however, been necessary in view of modern marine safety regulations. Therefore, while from the outside the ship looks just like its predecessor, it houses all the modern equipment required for navigating the seas under modern conditions.

The ship's schedule was planned to take advantage of favorable winds to and from China, following high pressure systems, trade winds and currents just as the original did hundreds of years ago.

During its voyage to China, the East Indiaman *Götheborg III* will also moor at ports in Cadiz, Recife, Cape Town, Fremantle and Jakarta, while its slightly different rout back home will take the ship to Singapore, Mauritius, Port Elisabeth, Cape Town, Ascension Island, the Azores and London.



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New Epic Nears Completion

By Dong Nan
“**W**arriors of Heaven and Earth is bound to be the greatest hit of the year,” Wang Zhonglei, the producer of the film, told *Beijing Youth Daily* last Wednesday.
Filming began on *Warriors of Heaven and Earth* in August 2001, almost the same time as Zhang Yimou started on his epic *Hero*, but the movie is still in post-production.
Wang puts the film’s tardiness in making it to cinema screens down to the complexities of international cooperation and the perfectionism of director He Ping.
He says the musical track is all that remains to be completed for the film, which stars box office draws Jiang Wen and Zhao Wei.

As to the inevitable comparisons with *Hero* and the recent Korean epic *Warriors*, Wang says, “Though all are described as ‘epics,’ *Warriors of Heaven and Earth* is totally unlike both *Hero* and *Warriors*. It focuses on individual’s feelings and the choices people make in a certain period.”
Warriors of Heaven and Earth, set during the Tang Dynasty, tells the story of an escaped criminal (Jiang Wen), his Japanese captor and a noblewoman (Zhao Wei). It is scheduled for release in October, during the National Day holiday.



Zhao Wei

Leehom Wan Wows Japanese

By Nebula Dong
Following Taiwanese star Takeshi Kaneshiro (Jin Cheungwu) and Faye Wang, pop star Leehom Wan has become the third Chinese pop singer to break into Japanese television.
Wang held a showcase for his Japanese debut *The Only One* last week. The show attracted many local major entertainment media, including *What’s*



In, Junon, Cut, Oricon and *WOWOW*. *Junon* hailed Wang as “Both handsome and versatile—an Asian nobleman with a pair of clear eyes.”
Wang’s record label, Sony Music, organized a major concert for the star in Japan this winter.
More recently, he played the hero in a Japanese movie *Moon Child*, which co-starred top local duo Hyde and Gackt.

New Album of Old Love Songs

Pop star Valen Hsu releases her new album *Yun Qie Liu Zhu (Cloud, Please Stay)* today. The 10 tracks on the album are all covers of love songs from movies adopted from Qiong Yao’s romantic novels of the 1960s and 1970s.
Qiong Yao’s sentimental novels, and the movies based on them, have long been popular in China, particularly with teenage girls. The 65-year-old novelist’s influence spans several generations. “My parents are also fans of Qiong Yao, and have been pester-



ing me for a demo of the album all day,” said the 30-something Hsu at a pre-release press conference.
The nostalgic album features several top young musicians, including Chen Shanni and Li Yuhuan.
In keeping with the album’s theme, Hsu posed for the cover photos in a string of romantic locations, on beaches and in remote mountains, wearing only a thin, transparent piece of silk. “It is not easy to be the heroine of a romantic novel,” she said with a smile.

Zhang Yimou to Film SARS Ad

By Dong Nan
Zhang Yimou has been signed to shoot an advertisement on combatting Sars for national TV, Zhang Weiping, producer of his upcoming film, told *Southern Cities*.
Zhang said that although Zhang Yimou was busy with his production of *Turandot* in Seoul last month, he has been eager to help in the fight against SARS, and was more than glad to accept the Beijing municipal government’s invitation to direct the advertisement.

China’s Own Bridges of Madison County

By Dong Nan
Renowned director Zhou Xiaowen is to direct a film based on the novel *Li Xing Zhi Nian (Years of Sense)*, which he describes as a Chinese version of Robert James Waller’s *The Bridges of Madison County*.
Written by Tang Ying, *Li Xing Zhi Nian* is a love story about an aging American businessman Jack, and a Chinese housewife, Shu Huan. Like the hero and heroine in *The Bridges of Madison County*, Jack disrupts Shu’s eventless and boring life “like a bomb.” The two quickly fall in love with each other, but Shu’s sense of responsibility dooms the relationship from the start.

“But the biggest difference between *Li Xing Zhi Nian* and *The Bridges of Madison County* is that Jack and Shu Huan have different cultural backgrounds and different attitudes towards life, which make their choices more complicated and subtle,” Zhou said in an interview with *Beijing Youth Daily* last Wednesday.
According to Zhou, the film script is in the process of being adapted by Yan Geling, a renowned Chinese American novelist and playwright. “And the name of the movie will be changed,” says Zhou, “*Li Xing Zhi Nian* doesn’t sound like a box office hit.”

WORLDWIDE



Amelia Vega

Dominican Republic Clinches Miss Universe Title

Miss Dominican Republic Amelia Vega, a six-foot (1.83-meter) tall 18-year-old high school student, won the Miss Universe 2003 title at a sparkling ceremony in Panama City on Tuesday night, beating a field of 70 other pageant queens with her charm and charisma.
It was the first time a contestant from the Dominican Republic, a Spanish-speaking country that shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with impoverished Haiti, was crowned Miss Universe.

(Reuters)



Jewel

Jewel Just Having Fun These Days

It took three albums for Jewel to convince people that she’s an earnest woman with a message and a guitar.
With the June 3 release of *0304*, this girl just wants to have fun. The 14-song Atlantic Records set finds the heady singer and songwriter relinquishing her folk and pop roots to explore electronic beats and uptempo melodies, taking her out of coffeehouses and onto the dance floor.
“I’ve always been considered a very serious artist,” says Jewel, 28. “This is my pop culture record.” (Billboard)
Judge Mulls Dismissing LA Lawsuit Against Jackson
A Los Angeles judge said on Monday that she would consider throwing out a lawsuit against Michael Jackson by a former top financial advisor who claims

that he is owed \$12 million by the onetime king of pop.
Superior Court Judge Andria Richey said she would also consider request from news organizations to televise the bitter court fight between Jackson and Myung-Ho Lee if it goes forward as scheduled on June 18.
Jackson’s lawyer, Zia Modabber, urged Richey to ban cameras from the courtroom, citing a worldwide media sensation during his November testimony in a central California court case.

(Reuters)



Michael Jackson

Madonna Stops to Smell the ‘Roses’

Madonna’s first children’s book will be published September 15 in 42 languages in more than 100 countries.
The release of *The English Roses* by Callaway Editions and Penguin Group, in association with various publishers around the world, is being touted as the largest simultaneous worldwide release of a book in history.
The publication of *Roses* will mark the debut of a five-book series by Madonna, with a projected first printing of the US edition of 400,000 copies.

(Reuters)

Lonestar to Release Greatest Hits Album

Lonestar’s Greatest Hits *From There to Here* comes out today, with a powerful bonus track.
The bonus track is a remix of *I’m Already There*, with added personal messages from military people and their families. “If you haven’t heard it, it’s very, very emotional,” said lead singer Richie McDonald.
“You can just hear the crying in these people’s voices. You can just hear the emotions, so it’s pretty touching,” he said.

(Reuters)



Lonestar

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

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Milan

Conquers Europe

By Hou Mingxin

Last weekend, the European Champions' League and soccer leagues in most European countries including Italy, England, Germany, came to a dramatic end, suitable for a fantastic season.

AC Milan, Champions Again

Last Wednesday, AC Milan were crowned the European champions when they beat Italian rivals Juventus 3-2 on penalties after the Champions' League final went goalless through regular and extra time.

Milan netted its sixth European Cup title in Old Trafford, the home stadium of UK team Manchester United.

Rino Gattuso's grit, Andriy Shevchenko's thirst for success, Pippo Inzaghi's runs, Paolo Maldini's recklessness - and the captain made history. Alessandro Nesta's punctuality, Andrea Pirlo's skill and Manuel Rui Costa's charisma, Massimo Ambrosini's challenges and the all the other qualities of the Rossoneri stars returned Milan to the top after a dark period.

Forty years ago, it was Cesare Maldini, Paolo's father, lifting the treasured trophy on English soil. His son, a model of professionalism and class, emerged as a key figure in the match, showing a veteran toughness and fearlessness. The team's other hero of the day was Shevchenko, who put the ball past Juventus goalkeeper Gigi Buffon on the decisive penalty shot.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti became only the second individual to win Europe's premier club prize as a player and as a coach with the same team, following Real Madrid FC's Miguel Munoz. Meanwhile, Clarence Seedorf became the first player to win the Champions' League with three different clubs, Ajax in 1994/95, Madrid in 1997/98 and now Milan.

The match had the fewest scoring chances of any Champions' League final since Red Star Belgrade beat Olympique Marseille on penalties after a goalless draw in 1991.

Three days later, after clinching the Champions' League title, Milan also won the Italian Cup, a trophy they haven't won since 1967 and a perfect ending to a grueling 11 months of hard work and 61 matches.

Juventus, King of Italy

Despite Juventus' loss in the final, the team defended its pride in Italian Soccer League Serie A.

On May 11, Juventus won the Serie A title, the 27th championship in the Turin club's 105-year history. That is also just two fewer than the total number of championships held by AC Milan and Inter Milan, Italy's other soccer giants, truly earning Juventus the title of "King of Italy".

In this season, the team won 21 of its 34 matches, racking up a Serie A-leading 72 points, with 64 goals scored, tying Inter Milan, and fewest goals conceded with 29.

Furthermore, Juventus overcame defending European Cup champions Real Madrid in the semi-final. That was no easy task, as Madrid is home to such superstars as Ronaldo, Rual, Zinedine Zidane, and Luis Figo.

An unfortunate result of that match, however, was that Nedved, Juventus' talented midfielder, was booked and could not play in the final.

At the press conference after the match, he said, "Everything went wrong, the whole evening went wrong," blaming fatigue along with the suspension of Nedved and an injury to Igor Tudor that forced the defender to depart before the interval. "We did not have sufficient fuel in our tanks to take advantage of the possibilities we were offered. This match did not happen under a good star with Nedved out and Tudor out. That made it really difficult for us," Lippi continued.

But, he then swore that Juventus would emerge at the top of the Champions' League next season.

Manchester United, England's legend

On May 11, Manchester United paraded their hard-won trophy and the curtain fell on a thrilling English Premiership season.

United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy converted the match-winning penalty to take the Golden Boot

with 25 goals, one more than last season's winner, Arsenal striker Thierry Henry.

But manager Alex Ferguson still found plenty to savor as he reflected on a season that had looked set to vindicate Arsenal's claim a year ago of a power shift in English football.

"It's a great day for Manchester United, there's no doubt about that and you can't deny our form's been fantastic," Ferguson told his club's official website.

Ferguson, whose team had finished trophyless and third in the table last season, also sent his rivals an early warning.

"Next year, we'll be really enthusiastic and everyone will be looking forward to it," he said.

At the same time, Ferguson must have felt embarrassed sitting and watching two Italian clubs vie for the Champions' League title, especially on his turf at Old Trafford. He swore to win a Champions' League title with Manchester United before he retires.

The club got a shot of good news with David Beckham's decision to stay. There had been rumors of a possible move to Real Madrid

for weeks, but Beckham said he definitely wanted to stay with his team during a Reuters interview on May 6.

"There's been lots of stuff in the media about me and my future, but I can honestly say that there has been no contact between either me or my adviser, with Real Madrid, or any other club," he said.

The Reuter's report, reprinted on United's official Web Site, quoted the England captain as saying, "My feelings for Manchester United, the club itself, the players, the fans and the back room staff, are as strong as ever."

FA Cup, A Reward for Arsenal

On May 17, Arsenal became only the second club in over 50 years to retain the Football Association (FA) Cup with a 1-0 victory over Southampton under the closed roof of the Millennium Stadium.

For Arsenal, the FA Cup is a worthy prize, but not really what they had their eye on. The front-runner most of the season, it was only in the last two rounds that Arsenal was surpassed by rival Manchester United.

Manager Arsene Wenger spoke afterwards of his relief at having finished the season with some silverware.

"The team was under immense pressure because they risked finishing without a trophy," he told BBC television after the match. "They got the trophy we wanted today."

It was Arsenal's third FA cup trophy under Wenger in six seasons. The victory also emulated the achievements of their old rivals Tottenham Hotspur, the last club to retain the FA Cup in both 1962 and 1982.

Judging from the past few years, Arsenal is the only English club that can rival giant Manchester United, and competition between the two teams is expected to get even tighter in upcoming seasons.

Arsenal's top star Thierry Henry has signed a new three-year contract with the team that will keep him at the Premiership side until 2007, according to a report published on the club's official web site on May 16.

"I am delighted to pledge my future to this great club," that report quotes the French striker as saying. "I want to make it clear I am very happy to stay, which has always been the case. I will remain at Arsenal as long as they want to keep me."

Winner of last season's golden boot, Henry scored 24 league goals this season, only one fewer than United striker van Nistelrooy.

Bayern, A Coach's Legend!

Bayern Munich reacted to falling at the first hurdle in the Champions' League by setting their sights on a league and cup double. The team has now delivered, and chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge joined the general admiration heaped upon coach Ottmar Hitzfeld and his side for the manner in which they recovered from the European disappointment.

"Everything we've done since November has been top class," the chairman told the club's official web site after an extremely comfortable 3-1 victory over Kaiserslautern in the 60th running of the German Soccer Association (DFB) Cup final on May 31.

"Next year we'll be focusing on the Champions' League," the chairman declared at the banquet which followed.

Rummenigge singled out coach Ottmar Hitzfeld for leading the club to a fourth domestic double, a feat previously achieved in 1969, 1986 and 2000. "As of today, we've

completely made up for the Champions' League exit which caused us so much trouble," he declared.

Hitzfeld began his career as a coach with Swiss outfit SC Zug in 1983. Twenty years on, the 54 year-old has smashed all previous records in his chosen career with his latest triumph at Bayern.

He is the first German coach to collect the "double" twice. And he now has 15 titles to his name (17 if the World Club Cup is included), making him the most successful German coach of all time, ahead of the legendary Udo Lattek (14 titles). On top of this, he has now coached his side to four championships in five seasons, a first in the history of German football.

Hitzfeld, who recently agreed to a new deal keeping him in Munich until 2005, will be exhilarated at crowning his twentieth year as a coach with both the league championship and the Cup. But the "General" is already looking forward to next season: after his first double with Bayern in 2000, he led his side to Champions' League glory the following year. Bayern fans can hardly wait for the next season to begin.

Real Madrid, Trophyless?

Real Madrid is seen as perhaps the greatest soccer club in the world. Established in 1902, the club has won nine European Cup titles, 28 Spanish League titles, and 17 Spanish Cup titles.

Since 2000, Real has imported three great players in three successive seasons. They signed Portuguese Luis Figo in 2000, Frenchman Zinedine Zidane in 2001 and Brazilian Ronaldo in 2002. Last season, the high-spending team won its ninth European Cup title.

This year, the team seemed to lack a spark of luck. In the Champions' League, the defending champions lost the opportunity to go to the final at Old Trafford after they suffered defeat at the hands of Juventus on May 14.

Last Saturday, Real Madrid's hopes of claiming the Spanish Primera Liga title suffered a significant setback as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Celta Vigo.

The result left manager Vicente Del Bosque's side level with leaders Real Sociedad at 72 points, but having played a game more. Will this strong side be able to pull through and win a trophy this year?

Last Wednesday, AC Milan were crowned the European champions when they beat Italian rivals Juventus 3-2, the team's sixth European Cup title.

Xinhua Photo



Juventus' fans celebrate the club's 27th Italian league championship.

Photocome



By James Liu

The fifth day of the fifth lunar month, June 4, this year, is the date of the traditional Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, marked by making zongzi, eating mung bean flour cakes (ludou gao), holding dragon boat races and hanging out five colored thread and moxa (Chinese mugwort) on front doors to ward off evil spirits. To the Chinese, this holiday is second only to Spring Festival in importance.

While many historians believe that the origins of the Dragon Boat Festival go back to the worship of tribal totems by primitive Chinese, legend has it that the festival began in memory of Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet who lived in the Chu kingdom during the Warring States period (475 – 221 BC). Qu was exiled by his king after being framed by evil officials. He threw himself into the Miluo River in present day Hunan Province and drowned on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month to show his devotion to his country.

The people of Chu, moved by his act, threw zongzi, rice bundled and boiled inside bamboo or reed leaves, so the fish of the river would not eat him, and tried to save him, racing on their boats to the spot where he threw himself into the water. Hence, those continue to be the main parts of the festival.

The origins of mung bean flour cakes are more practical than legendary, as Chinese medicine says such flour can rid the body of excessive inner heat, particularly valuable at the beginning of the summer. While pure mung bean flour has a natural dark green color and distinctive bean odor, modern producers often add yellow food coloring to mung bean flour cakes and give them different fillings to make them more appealing to the eyes and stomach.

The Chinese have been making zongzi for over 2,000 years. While most are shaped like pyramids, forms vary, such as cone or cylinder-shaped zongzi. Flavors also differ according to region and because of the use of different ingredients as fillings or different types of leaf wrappers. The two main varieties of zongzi are southern, best represented by Jiaxing zongzi, named after a county in Zhejiang Province, and northern zongzi, of which the Beijing zongzi is the best known.

On the whole, northern zongzi tend to be sweeter, made with coarse bean paste and Chinese dates, while southern zongzi range from sweet, with walnuts, dates or beans added to the rice, to savory, made with ham, eggs, meat or roast chicken. The most famous type of Jiaxing zongzi is made with pork.

Some zongzi, such as plain ones made only with rice or those of Sichuan Province, are served with honey or sugar for dipping. In northern China, people often replace the glutinous rice with millet to add flavor, resulting in a tasty, golden zongzi.

While many Chinese uphold the tradition of eating zongzi on the day of the Dragon Boat Festival, they have become so popular that the little treats are available year round. Local supermarkets stock a variety of zongzi, sold for 8 to 12 yuan per kilogram, while established old shops, such as Daoxiangcun, Wufangzhai, and Huguosi, sell their own brands of zongzi, normally fetching 1.5 yuan each. Even hotels get into the zongzi game, with the Horizon Chinese Restaurant at the Kerry Center offering five different premium flavors at premium prices.

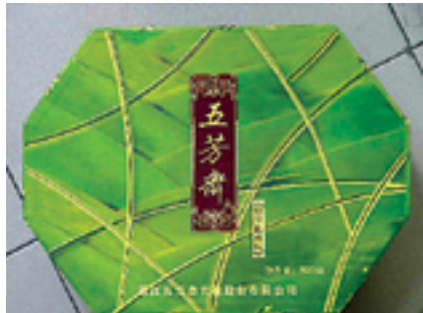
Festival Food For Double Five



Daoxiangcun



Horizon Chinese Restaurant



Wufangzhai



Huguosi Muslim Zongzi

Photos by Zhuang Jian



Daoxiangcun

Daoxiangcun group, one of the oldest food manufacturers in Beijing, was founded in 1895 and has established a solid reputation among locals on the strength of its mooncakes, zongzi and *yuanxiao* (round rice dumplings). Daoxiangcun's zongzi are available in more than 10 flavors, all boiled the night before they are transported to the company's 27 outlets within the city. New creations for this year are zongzi with mung bean paste and lily bulb fillings, both going for 1.6 yuan a piece.

Though Daoxiangcun is a northern brand, it also makes southern-style zongzi, such as one popular variety stuffed with ham that sell for 2 yuan each. All of this company's zongzi are wrapped in either bamboo or reed leaves. Chi Xiangdong, director of the Daoxiangcun factory, recommends reed-wrapped zongzi, as they are "more fragrant." The rice goodies can also be bought in specially-designed bamboo baskets (5 yuan) or paper containers (4 yuan).

Huguosi Muslim Zongzi

Huguosi Snack Foods, owned by the Huatian Food Group, also is a local institution with a long-running reputation among Beijingers. The company's products are general inexpensive, but still high quality, drawing lines of people to their breakfast snack outlets every morning.

To meet demand around Dragon Boat Festival, Huguosi is cranking out around 20,000 zongzi a week, available in ten varieties, all Muslim-style. The most unusual one is made with a mixture of glutinous rice and millet, which comes out looking like a bar of mixed gold and silver. All zongzi are sold for 8 jiao to 1.5 yuan each at the company's six directly managed shops around the city.

Wufangzhai

China's major national zongzi brand, Wufangzhai brings in around 3 million yuan in annual profits from the Beijing

market alone. Though its Beijing branch only opened in 2002, the company has been peddling zongzi and other snacks in this city since 1997.

Wufangzhai specializes in meat-filled zongzi, through they also make ones stuffed with chestnuts, salty egg yolk, walnuts and other non-meat ingredients. The company does not run its own stores, but its products are available in more than 700 supermarkets and stores including Sci-Tech Plaza and Lufthansa Center.

Popular among locals and other northerners are sweet zongzi filled with sweetened bean paste and dates. All zongzi are vacuum packed after being produced in Jiaxing to protect their original flavor, and most fetch between 2 and 5 yuan each. A cheaper option is to buy frozen zongzi, sold at 8 yuan per kilogram, while big spenders can choose special zongzi gift boxes priced over 100 yuan per set.

Horizon Chinese Restaurant

Due to the SARS epidemic, many hotels have cancelled their food promotions, but the Horizon Chinese Restaurant at Kerry Centre ran a 10-day zongzi promotion that ended on the day of the Dragon Boat Festival. The restaurant's chefs cooked up five varieties of top-of-the-line zongzi, stuffed with abalone and scallop (38 yuan each), eight-treasures (28 yuan each), salted meat (8 yuan), red bean paste (8 yuan each) and Chinese date (8 yuan each).

Zongzi around the World

The zongzi is not an exclusive food of the Chinese. The people of many other countries make similar snacks, though they vary in flavor, ingredients and shape.

Japan

The Japanese use ground rice flour, instead of glutinous rice, to make zongzi, which are shaped like hammers and wrapped with fragrant thoroughwort, a type of chive-like grass. It

is also a tradition to make zongzi on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar in Japan.

Vietnam

Vietnamese use *basjoo* leaves to wrap zongzi either into round or square shapes, also part of the traditional celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival.

Burma

The Burmese make zongzi without any connection to the Dragon Boat Festival, and normally add banana or mashed coconut to the glutinous rice filling.

Cambodia

Cambodian zongzi are a bit different than Chinese ones, as they are wrapped in cloth bags, contain a mixture of glutinous rice, red bean, and dates, and steamed.

Thailand

The only major difference between Chinese and Thai zongzi is the latter are smaller, normally no bigger than an egg.

Mexico

Mexicans make *tamales*, which look like zongzi, using ground corn meal with meat and shredded pepper fillings wrapped in corn husks or banana leaves.

Peru

Peruvians traditionally make zongzi-like snacks, similar to those of Mexico, at Christmas.

Costa Rica

People in Costa Rica use a mixture of corn flour, chicken or duck meat and shredded carrots and potatoes to make food that looks a lot like zongzi.



Making Zongzi

Making zongzi is more difficult than it may look. Even experienced Chinese cooks can struggle to shape the leaves and place the rice inside. Undaunted, many Chinese families still make their own zongzi during the Dragon Boat Festival. Here is a simple recipe for beginners to try:

Yield: 10 Dumplings

Ingredients:

50 sheets of bamboo or reed leaves; glutinous rice (1 kilogram); Chinese dates (250 grams)

Procedure:

1. Soak the rice and the dates 12 hours or more till they are thoroughly hydrated;
2. Wash the leaves;
3. On a cutting board, fold the leaves flat at the leafstalk to make a sheet;
4. Hold the sheet and fold both sides in and around each other to form a cone-like shape;
5. Place about 100 grams of rice and six dates into each dumpling, making sure the dates are fully covered by the rice to seal in their juices;
6. Fold the leaves up to seal the open side of the funnel and tie the bundle with a band made of twisted leaves. Make sure that the bundle is tied neither too tight nor too loose so that the ingredients can cook through;
8. Put enough water to cover all zongzi in a pot and bring to a boil. Add the zongzi, then be sure to weigh them down with a plate or other item so they won't float or move while being boiled;
9. Boil for 40 minutes if using a pressure cooker or three hours in a regular pot.

Cooking Tips

Don't put zongzi in cold water and then bring to a boil, or add cold water during the cooking process.

Cook sweet and salty zongzi separately to keep their flavors from mixing.

Health Concerns

People with cardiovascular problems should avoid meat zongzi because of their high fat content, and diabetics should not eat sweet zongzi because they contain a lot of sugar. Older people and children should minimize consumption of zongzi because glutinous rice is dry to digest and can give them diarrhea.

Purchasing Tips

Don't buy zongzi kept warm for a long time, because the rice will be hard and they can be harder to digest.

Smell all zongzi before buying. A wrapper that does not have a fresh fragrance may have been used before.

In hot weather, be sure not to buy zongzi that have a sour smell, as they may have gone bad.

Exhibitions



Cloud by Yang Er

People, Objects, Color and Ink Exhibition

In this exhibition, artists including Jia Haoyi, Lei Shuang, Zhong Ruqian, Zhang Jianbo, Zhu Yamei and Yang Ermin will display their works.

Where: Creation Gallery, north end of Ritan Donglu **When:** till June 12, 10 am - 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570



Saxophone by Hua Chaofeng

Hua Chaofeng Oil Painting

Hua Chaofeng has worked with oil painting for over ten years. His paintings have been collected by people from many countries such as Japan, America and Holland.

Where: Fa Fa Gallery, 2 Xiangjiang Beilu, Jingshun Lu, Quanfa Garden Clubhouse, Chaoyang **When:** June 6 - 30 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 13001908730

Oil Exhibition

Featuring 20 artists, including Wen Lipeng, Yang Feiyun, Luo Lizhong and Jiang Guofang. **Where:** East Gallery, Deshengmen Watchtower, North Second Ring Road, Xicheng **When:** June 8 - 19, 9 am - 5 pm (except Monday) **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8201 4962

Yu Xiaodong's Oil Paintings

Yu Xiaodong has lived in Tibet for many years. His paintings portray the people and their lives, and the beauty of nature.

Where: Qin Gallery, Huaweili Enjoy Paradise 1-1E (north of Beijing Curio City) Chaoyang **When:** till June 18, 9:30 am - 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8779 0461

Sports

Triangle Hike

Walk along beautiful mountain

paths, through orchards, along ridges and hilltops, pass a reservoir, through pinewoods and by-pass three villages along the way. There are some breathtaking views and a small stream near the end of the walk. Farmers in this area mainly grow persimmons, walnuts and chestnuts. The cherry blossom is the best in this area.

Where: Changping, north of Beijing **When:** June 8, meet 8:30 am outside Starbucks at Lido Hotel, return 5 pm **Cost:** adults 150 yuan, children 100 yuan **Tel:** 13701003694 **Email:** bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

Tennis Lessons for Juniors

With the summer holidays starting, we offer youngsters a chance to learn about the game of tennis. The charge is 1,500 yuan for 10 lessons of one-hour each.

Where: Chang'an Club **When:** June 6 **Tel:** 6522 9988 ext. 6667 **Email:** info@changanclub.com

Services

Dragonair

The price of a round trip ticket from Beijing to Hong Kong has fallen to 1,650 yuan. Passengers going to Hong Kong for three days and two nights can pay 2,000 yuan for the round trip ticket plus free beds in a four-star hotel for two nights

Where: Flat 1710, Office Tower 1, Henderson Center, 18 Jianguomennei Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** till the end of June **Tel:** 6518 3473

Japan Airlines

Round trip tickets from Beijing to Tokyo are available for 5,500 yuan (return valid for one month), 6,500 yuan (three months), and 7,000 yuan (six months). One-way ticket from Beijing to Tokyo is 3,600 yuan.

Round trip ticket from Beijing to Vancouver via Tokyo is 7,100 yuan. One-way ticket from Beijing to Vancouver via Tokyo costs 5,330. Both include free bed and breakfast in a hotel if there is no flight to Vancouver when arriving in Tokyo.

Where: 1st floor, Hotel Newotani Changfugong, Jianguomenwai, Chaoyang **When:** till the end of June **Tel:** 6513 0888

Air China

One-way ticket from Beijing to Los Angeles costs 3,200 yuan; from Beijing to Vancouver costs 4,200 yuan. One-way ticket from Beijing to Haikou has been reduced by 50 percent to 1,030 yuan.

Round trip ticket from Beijing to Hong Kong costs just 1,650 yuan. For the next year, starting from May 20, 2003, every passenger who buys tickets from Air China will enjoy "Carrier SARS Liability Insurance".

Where: Aviation Building, 15 Xichang'an Jie, Xicheng **Tel:** 6601 6667, 800 810 1111



You Can't Take It with You

Directed by Frank Capra, starring Lionel Barrymore, Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Edward Arnold, Mary Forbes, Ann Miller. The movie presents the story of an unusual family and assorted offbeat characters that live in a house where the unusual is the norm and everyone is encouraged to do what makes them happy. In English.

Where: Space for Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang Handian **When:** June 6, 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6279 1280

Movies

Chicken Poets

(Xiang Jimao Yiyang Fei)

Directed by Meng Jinghui, starring Chen Jianbin, Qin Hailu, and Liao Fan. This is a dark satire about a man who must decide whether to be a poet or a businessman. Yun Fei is depressed that his poetry has gone unrecognized by the public when he moves to a village. In the village, he meets a girl. Chinese with English subtitles.

Where: Hilton Hotel, Dongsanhuan Beilu **When:** June 6 and 7, 8:30 pm **Admission:** 50 yuan, including one draft beer or one soft drink **Tel:** 6466 2288 ext. 7370 **Email:** rex@cherrylanemovies.com.cn

Jams

Enjoy Music and Champagne

Live jazz music by Lance Gerner (trumpet), Moreno (piano), "Louis" Liu Wu (bass), Izumi (drums) and Dilianna (vocals). And enjoy fine Veuve Cliquot Champagne: two glasses for only 120 yuan. For tonight, Neo Lounge has special offers on all champagnes.

Where: Neo Lounge, 99 Xingfucun Zhonglu **When:** 7:30-10:30 pm **Tel:** 6416 1077

Upstairs and Downstairs

Upstairs offers S-Press (funky reggae, dub), Gao Hu (funky house), Youdai (progressive house) and Dr. Green (psychedelic trance, sunrise special). Downstairs, there's Levi (US house) and Shapeshifter (funky disco, techno).

Where: Ritan Park South Gate **When:** June 6, 10 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 8562 2380

CD Café Music

Kashgar native Arken hits the stage

Where: CD Café, south of the Agricultural Exhibition Center **When:** June 8, 3 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6501 8877 ext. 3032

The Return of the Afro-Caribbean Beat Night

The Deptford Crew, in association with Treelounge Massive, brings you a music night full of sounds from around Africa and the Caribbean. The vibes will be flowing outdoors, in full tropical mood. DJs Albert, DJ Tree, and DJ "C" will be playing. Fruit punch for 20 yuan all night.

Where: Treelounge, Dong Sanhuan Lu, south of the Agricultural Exhibition Center **When:** June 7, 10 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 13511010967 **Email:** Deptford-crew@gmx.co.uk or treelounge_bj@yahoo.com.hk

Rock Music

Cui Jian, Beijing's veteran

rock, will perform. All proceeds from the show will go to the Beijing Red Cross.

Where: Yan Club, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu **When:** June 7, 9 pm **Admission:** 100 yuan, including free beer or soft drink **Tel:** 8457 3506

Sixth Anniversary

On Friday night, June 6, Jam House will celebrate its sixth anniversary by holding two concerts of Sinkiang and new Flamenco, treating guests to both passionate songs and dance and refreshing cold drinks.

Where: Sanlitun Nanjie, Chaoyang **When:** June 6, 6 pm - 3 am **Tel:** 6506 3845

Lecture

Chinese Architecture and Relics Protection

Lu Zhou, President of the Chinese Architecture and Relics Protection Research Institute, will show a large collection of photos and materials from his research over the past year. He will introduce the plight facing much of the significant architecture and relics in China at the moment, and also discuss the government's protection policies. English translation provided.

Where: Lee's Antique Carpets, Liangmaqiao Lu, close to 21st Century Hotel **When:** June 7, 2:30-4:30 pm **Admission:** adults 40 yuan, students 20 yuan **Tel:** 8462 2081

Take Control

Mr. Lance Tanaka, a famous executive from the US, will give a series of seminars on Women & Leadership. Lance was a VP of Nike and Pepsi for the Asia Pacific Region and has worked with Fortune 500 companies throughout Asia for the past 12 years. English language event.

Where: 50th Floor, Capital Club, 6 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang **When:** June 12, 6:30 pm **Tel:** 8486 3909

Activities

Tour of White Cloud Temple

Baiyunguan is one of China's oldest and largest Taoist temples. This tour will introduce some of the history of Taoism, its progression as a religion and its impact on China and Chinese culture. English translation provided.

Where: meet at the entrance of the temple **When:** June 8, 2:30-5 pm **Admission:** adults 40 yuan, students 30 yuan **Tel:** 13501035145

Kite-flying

Kite-flying activities have been a little restrained in Beijing in recent weeks. But in designated areas, it's still popular. These places include Chaoyang Park, Yizhuang, Peking University, Renmin University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing Normal University, Beijing Institute of Technology, Central University for Nationalities, Beihang University, Beijing Forest University and Beijing Agricultural University.

Employment

A Chinese woman who has been an accountant at a private company for five years since graduating from university, seeks new accounting job. **Tel:** 13683297499

Language Exchange

A young Chinese girl, major in English, would like to find a native English speaker for English to Chinese language exchange. Someone living near Wangjing is preferred. **Email:** bychance9@tom.com

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By Guo Yuandan / Helen Hong

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Rockets, Dams and Alpine Splendor



Yi people's bazaar



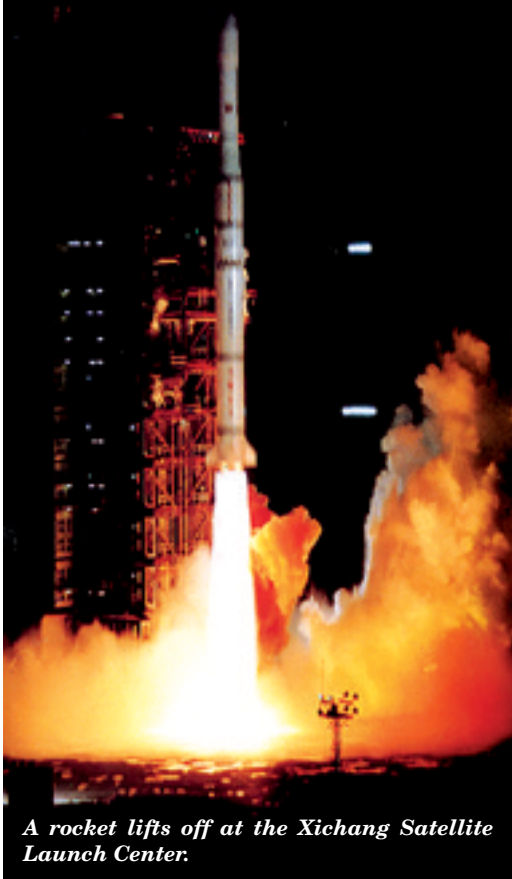
Yi table ware



Chengdu-Kunming railway passed through Daliangshan and Xiaoliangshan Mountains.



Yi woman doing housework.



A rocket lifts off at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center.



"Gangan Jiu" is a Yi celebration for a bumper crop.

Photos by Laoxu

By Chen Jie / Zhang Bo

Xichang and Panzhihua are two small cities in the south of Sichuan Province, somewhat off the beaten tourist track. They are of interest both for their scenic beauty and their high-tech wonders.

Xichang

Situated in the Daliang Mountains, Xichang (西昌) is the capital of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture.

Because of its high altitude and low latitude, Xichang features a semitropical, monsoonal climate, with fine weather most of a year.

Stockade villages

The stockade villages of the local Yi people can be found in the Luoishan area. The reddish mountains are terraced and earthen houses are covered with black roofs. In some of the villages, most houses are traditional bamboo and stone structures.

Cacti are planted as protective fences around the vegetable plots in the villages.

Another feature of these villages are the blockhouse-like earthen towers, used to dry tobacco leaves.

The local young men wear black headbands and hero bands, inlaid with black and red buttons.

Qionghai Lake and Lushan Mountain

Qionghai Lake (邛海) and Lushan Mountain (庐山) lie between Luoishan and Xichang.

Qionghai Lake is 1,510 meters above sea level and over 30 meters deep, surrounded by green forest and colorful flowers.

Lushan Mountain is well known for its ten ancient temples, built during the Han, Tang, Ming and Qing dynasties, including Guangfu Temple (光福寺), Mengduan

Memorial Temple (蒙段祠), Sanjiao Nunnery (三教庵) and Yuhuang Palace (玉皇殿). The coexistence of these Confucian, Taoist and Buddhist temples on one mountain have made Lushan famous throughout China.

Xichang Satellite Launch Center

Established in 1971, the Xichang Satellite Launch Center is about 60 kilometers northwest of Xichang. Between 1984 and 2000, 30 satellites were launched into space from here.

Some parts of the center are open to the public. For 50 yuan, you can visit the satellite launch pad, satellite workshop, command center and science park.

Panzhihua

Known as Steel City, Panzhihua (攀枝花) is three hours by train south from Xichang. With an average of 2,754 hours of sunshine a year, it is also called Sunshine City.

Standing on the mountainous banks of the Jinsha River, Panzhihua, like Chongqing, is no place for bicycles.

Ertan Hydropower Station

From Panzhihua Railway Station, visitors can take a taxi to Ertan Hydropower Station for 50 yuan. The trip takes about one hour.

Ertan Hydropower Station lies in the lower reaches of the Yalong River. Famous for its unpolluted waters, the jade-like Yalong River features several vacation resorts along its banks.

The power station was completed in 1999, and can generate up to 3,300 megawatts. The double-arched dam, designed to fit the zigzagging terrain, rises 240 meters, the highest in China and the third highest in the world.

At Wangjing Tower, visitors can pay 45 yuan to join a tour to the central workshop, the heart of the Ertan Hydropower Station, located 70 meters underground.

From the workshop, there is a bus to the top of the huge dam, for a panoramic view of the reservoir.

In July and August, water discharged from the dam creates a 200-meter-high waterfall, the vapor from which can be felt several kilometers away.

Street of Fish Eateries in Panzhihua

By Yalong Bridge in Panzhihua is the famous Yuzhuang Jie (鱼庄街), or Street of Fish Restaurants, serving fish from the Yalong River.

There are several varieties of fish found in the Yalong River. Those actually caught from the river sell for 80 yuan per 500 grams, while those bred in ponds by the riverside sell for 60 yuan per 500 grams.

Sitting in the restaurants, diners have a spectacular view of the confluence of the Yalong and Jinsha rivers, just below the Yalong Bridge.

Scenic spots around Xichang and Panzhihua

There are many relatively untouched scenic spots around Xichang and Panzhihua. Visitors not pressed for time might consider a train trip to Chengdu or Chongqing, or a bus to Lugu Lake (泸沽湖), Lijiang (丽江) and Yulong Snow Mountain in neighboring Yunnan Province.

Getting there: Train K117 leaves Beijing West Railway Station for Panzhihua by the way of Xichang and costs 253 yuan (hard sleeper).

Tip: The sun can be quite intense at this altitude, be sure to pack some suntan lotion.

WALL WALKS



Arrow holes in the Great Wall

Photo by Ji Xue Lu

The 'Wrong' Great Wall

By Ji Xue Lu / Huang Lisha

In a mountain valley northwest of Xishadi, a village in Miyun County, stands an unusual section of the Great Wall, not connected to the main body of the wall to the north.

It was reputedly built during the reign of Emperor Longqing (1537-1572) of the Ming Dynasty, under the supervision of Tan Cheng, a subordinate of the famous General Qi Jiguang. According to local folklore, this section should have been constructed in what is now Huairou County, and when General Qi learned of the mistake, he immediately had Tan Cheng beheaded.

In fact, the location seems to be perfectly fitting for a section of Great Wall. Xishadi lies at the foot of the mountain. Invaders in ancient times crossing the mountains here would have found what seemed to be numerous routes down, only to discover they all merge into one path at the halfway point. This is where the so-called "wrongly built Great Wall" stands.

There are seven watch towers constructed along the ridge that hugs the wall in the middle. Each one has a south and north entrance three meters above the ground, making them quite invulnerable, unless the enemy happened to bring along a ladder.

Historical records, however, differ from the popular account. According to Ming records, the Xishadi section dates back to the 15th Century. Furthermore, the wall consists of two layers, stone inside and brick outside, meaning that it was restored in ancient times. If it truly was a "wrongly built Great Wall", it is unlikely it would have been considered necessary to rebuild it.

Getting there: Take the Beijing-Miyun road to Miyun, then follow the signs to the town of Tian Ge Zhuang (田各庄镇), then Xishadi. Alternatively, take bus 980 from Dongzhimen long distance bus station to Yunguang (云光), then take a mini bus to Xishadi.

MUSEUM WATCH

Red Chamber Museum of Culture and Art

By Guo Yuandan

Grand View Garden, or The Red Chamber Museum of Culture and Art, is modeled on descriptions of Daguanyuan, the garden in the novel Hong Lou Meng (A Dream of Red Mansions).

Written during the Qing Dynasty by Cao Xueqin, Hong Lou Meng has inspired numerous films, operas and television dramas. In 1984, Grand View Garden was used as a set for a TV drama based on the book, which revolves around the tragic love between Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu during the reign of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty.

There are two main sections of the museum. The garden section features courtyards, parks, a Buddhist temple, rockeries and a lake. The other section features a series of exhibits relating to the story of Hong Lou Meng. It includes stamps, paper cuts, porcelain and carvings of the characters, as well "Hong Lou Meng" brand tobacco and alcohol.

Where: 12 Nancai Yuan Jie, *Xuanwu Hours:* 8:30 - 4:30 pm *Admission:* 15 yuan *Tel:* 6354 2299



The Gu'en Siyi Hall

Photos by Cui Hao